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George III.*

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T R E A T Y
OF AMITY, COMMERCE, and NAVIGATION; *between His
Britannick Majesty, and the United States of America, by their
President, with advice and consent of Senate.*

HIS Britannick Majesty and the United States of America, being desirous by a Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation to terminate their differences in such a manner, as without reference to the merits of their respective complaints and pretensions, may be the best calculated to produce mutual satisfaction and good understanding: And also to regulate the Commerce and Navigation between their respective countries, territories and people, in such a manner as to render the same reciprocally beneficial and satisfactory; they have, respectively, named their Plenipotentiaries, and given them full powers to treat of, and conclude, the said Treaty, that is to say; His Britannic Majesty has named for his Plenipotentiary, the Right Honourable William Wyndham Baron Grenville of Wotton, one of his Majesty's Privy Council, and his Majesty's principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; and the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof, hath appointed for their Plenipotentiary, the Honourable John Jay, Chief Justice of the said United States and their Envoy Extraordinary to his Majesty, who have agreed on, and concluded the following articles;

ARTICLE I. There shall be a firm, inviolable and universal peace, and a true and sincere friendship between his Britannick Majesty, his heirs and successors, and the United States of America; and between their respective countries, territories, cities, towns and people of every degree, without exception of persons or places.

ART.

ART. II. His Majesty will withdraw all his troops and garrisons from all posts and places within the boundary line assigned by the Treaty of peace to the United States. This evacuation shall take place on or before the first day of June, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-six, and all the proper measures shall in the interval be taken by concert between the government of the United States, and his Majesty's Governor General in America, for settling the previous arrangements which may be necessary respecting the delivery of the said posts: The United States in the mean time at their discretion, extending their settlements to any part within the said boundary line, except within the precincts or jurisdiction of any of the said posts. All settlers and traders, within the precincts or jurisdiction of the said Posts, shall continue to enjoy, unmolested, all their property of every kind, and shall be protected therein. They shall be at full liberty to remain there, or to remove with all or any part of their effects; and it shall also be free to them to sell their lands, houses, or effects, or to retain the property thereof, at their discretion; such of them as shall continue to reside within the said boundary line shall not be compelled to become citizens of the United States, or to take any oath of allegiance to the government thereof, but they shall be at full liberty so to do, if they think proper, and they shall make and declare their election within one year, after the evacuation aforesaid. And all persons who shall continue there after the expiration of the said year, without having declared their intention of remaining subjects of his Britannick Majesty, shall be considered as having elected to become citizens of the United States.

ART. III. It is agreed that it shall at all times be free to his Majesty's subjects, and to the citizens of the United States, and also to the Indians dwelling on either side of the said boundary line, freely to pass and repass by land or inland navigation, into the respective territories and countries of the two parties on the continent of *America* [the country within the limits of the *Hudson's Bay Company* only excepted] and to navigate all the Lakes, Rivers, and waters thereof, and freely to carry on Trade and Commerce with each other.

other. But it is understood, that this Article does not extend to the admission of vessels of the United States into the Sea Ports, Harbours, Bays, or Creeks of his Majesty's said territories; nor into such parts of the Rivers in his Majesty's said territories as are between the mouth thereof, and the highest port of entry from the Sea, except in small vessels trading *bona fide* between Montreal and Quebec, under such regulations as shall be established to prevent the possibility of any frauds in this respect. Nor to the admission of British vessels from the Sea into the Rivers of the United States, beyond the highest Ports of entry for foreign vessels from the Sea. The River Mississippi shall, however, according to the Treaty of Peace, be entirely open to both parties; and it is further agreed, that all the ports and places on its Eastern side, to whichsoever of the parties belonging, may freely be resorted to, and used by both parties, in as ample a manner as any of the Atlantic ports or places of the United States, or any of the ports or places of his Majesty in Great-Britain.

All goods and merchandize whose importation into his Majesty's said territories in *America*, shall not be entirely prohibited, may freely, for the purposes of Commerce, be carried into the same in the manner aforesaid, by the citizens of the United States, and such goods and merchandize shall be subject to no higher or other duties than would be payable by his Majesty's subjects on the importation of the same from *Europe* into the said territories. And in like manner, all goods and merchandize whose importation into the United States shall not be wholly prohibited, may freely, for the purposes of Commerce, be carried into the same, in the manner aforesaid, by his Majesty's subjects, and such goods and merchandize shall be subject to no higher or other duties than would be payable by the citizens of the United States on the importation of the same in American vessels into the Atlantic ports of the said States. And all goods not prohibited to be exported from the said territories, respectively, may in like manner be carried out of the same by the two parties respectively, paying duty as aforesaid.

No duty of entry shall ever be levied by either party on peltries brought by land, or inland navigation into the said territories respectively

pectively, nor shall the Indians passing or re-passing with their own proper goods and effects of whatever nature, pay for the same any impost or duty whatever. But goods in bales, or other large packages unusual among Indians shall not be considered as goods belonging *bona fide* to Indians.

No higher or other tolls or rates of ferriage than what are or shall be payable by natives, shall be demanded on either side; and no duties shall be payable on any goods which shall merely be carried over any of the portages or carrying places on either side, for the purpose of being immediately reimparked and carried to some other place or places. But as by this stipulation it is only meant to secure to each party a free passage across the portages on both sides, it is agreed, that this exemption from duty shall extend only to such goods as are carried in the usual and direct road across the portage, and are not attempted to be in any manner sold or exchanged during their passage across the same, and proper regulations may be established to prevent the possibility of any frauds in this respect.

As this article is intended to render in a great degree the local advantages of each party common to both, and thereby to promote a disposition favourable to friendship and good neighbourhood, it is agreed, that the respective Governments will mutually promote this amicable intercourse, by causing speedy and impartial justice to be done, and necessary protection to be extended to all who may be concerned therein.

ART. IV. Whereas it is uncertain whether the River Mississippi extends so far to the Northward as to be intersected by a line to be drawn due West from the Lake of the Woods in the manner mentioned in the Treaty of Peace between his Majesty and the United States, it is agreed, that measures shall be taken in concert between his Majesty's government in *America*, and the government of the United States for making a joint survey of the said river from one degree of latitude below the Falls of *St. Anthony*, to the principal source or sources of the said river, and also of the parts adjacent thereto; and that if on the result of such survey, it should appear that the said river

river would not be intersected by such a line as is above mentioned, the two parties will thereupon proceed by amicable negotiation to regulate the boundary line in that quarter, as well as all other points to be adjusted between the said parties, according to justice and mutual convenience, and in conformity to the intent of the said Treaty.

ART. V. Whereas doubts have arisen what river was truly intended under the name of the river *St. Croix*, mentioned in the said Treaty of Peace, and forming a part of the boundary therein described, that question shall be referred to the final decision of Commissioners to be appointed in the following manner, viz.

One Commissioner shall be named by his Majesty, and one by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof, and the said two Commissioners shall agree on the choice of a third; or if they cannot so agree, they shall each propose one person, and of the two names so proposed, one shall be drawn by lot in the presence of the two original Commissioners. And the three Commissioners so appointed, shall be sworn impartially to examine and decide the said question according to such evidence as shall respectively be laid before them on the part of the British Government and of the United States. The said Commissioners shall meet at Halifax, and shall have power to adjourn to such other place or places as they shall think fit. They shall have power to appoint a Secretary, and to employ such surveyors or other persons as they shall judge necessary. The said Commissioners shall by a declaration under their hands and seals decide what river is the River *St. Croix* intended by the Treaty. The said declaration shall contain a description of the said river, and shall particularize the latitude and longitude of its mouth and of its source. Duplicates of this declaration and of the statements of their accounts, and of the journal of their proceedings shall be delivered by them to the Agent of his Majesty and to the Agent of the United States, who may be respectively appointed and authorized to manage the business on behalf of the respective Governments. And both parties agree

agree to consider such decision as final and conclusive, so as that the same shall never thereafter be called into question, or made the subject of dispute or difference between them.

ART. VI. Whereas it is alledged by divers British merchants and others his Majesty's subjects, that debts to considerable amount, which were *bona fide* contracted before the peace, still remain owing to them by citizens or inhabitants of the United States, and by the operation of various lawful impediments since the peace, not only the full recovery of the said debts has been delayed, but also the value and security thereof have been, in several instances, impaired and lessened, so that by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings the British creditors cannot now obtain, and actually have and receive full and adequate compensation for the losses and damages which they have thereby sustained : It is agreed, that in all such cases where full compensation for such losses and damages cannot for whatever reason be actually obtained, had and received by the said creditors in the ordinary course of justice, the United States will make full and complete compensation for the same to the said creditors : But it is distinctly understood, that this provision is to extend to such losses only as have been occasioned by the lawful impediments aforesaid, and is not to extend to losses occasioned by such insolvency of the debtors, or other causes as would equally have operated to produce such loss, if the said impediments had not existed, nor to such losses or damages as have been occasioned by the manifest delay or negligence, or wilful omission of the claimant.

For the purpose of ascertaining the amount of any such losses and damages, five Commissioners shall be appointed, and authorized to meet and act in manner following, viz. Two of them shall be appointed by his Majesty, two of them by the President of the United States by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof, and the fifth by the unanimous voice of the other four ; and if they should not agree in such choice, then the Commissioners named by the two parties shall respectively propose one person, and of the two names so proposed, one shall be drawn by lot in the presence of the four

original

original Commissioners. When the five Commissioners thus appointed shall first meet, they shall, before they proceed to act respectively, take the following oath or affirmation, in the presence of each other, which oath or affirmation being so taken and duly attested, shall be entered on the record of their proceedings, viz.—I, A. B. one of the Commissioners appointed in pursuance of the 6th Article of the Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation, between his Britannick Majesty and the United States of America do solemnly swear, or affirm, that I will honestly, diligently, impartially, and carefully examine, and to the best of my judgment, according to justice and equity, decide all such complaints, as under the said articles shall be preferred to the said Commissioners; and that I will forbear to act as a Commissioner in any case in which I may be personally interested.

Three of the said Commissioners shall constitute a board, and shall have power to do any act appertaining to the said Commission, provided that one of the Commissioners named on each side, and the fifth Commissioner shall be present, and all decisions shall be made by the majority of the voices of the Commissioners then present; eighteen months from the day on which the said Commissioners shall form a board, and be ready to proceed to business, are assigned for receiving complaints, and applications; but they are nevertheless authorized in any particular cases in which it shall appear to them to be reasonable and just, to extend the said term of eighteen months, for any term not exceeding six months, after the expiration thereof. The said Commissioners shall first meet at *Philadelphia*, but they shall have power to adjourn from place to place as they shall see cause.

The said Commissioners in examining the complaints and applications so preferred to them, are empowered and required, in pursuance of the true intent and meaning of this article, to take into their consideration all claims, whether of principal or interest, or balances of principal and interest, and to determine the same respectively, according to the merits of the several cases, due regard being had to all the circumstances thereof, and as equity and justice shall appear to them to require. And the said Commissioners shall have power

to examine all such persons as shall come before them on oath or affirmation touching the premises ; and also to receive in evidence according as they may think most consistent with equity and justice; all written depositions, or books, or papers, or copies, or extracts thereof, every such deposition, book, or copy, or extract being duly authenticated, either according to the legal forms now respectively existing in the two countries, or in such other manner as the said Commissioners shall see cause to require or allow.

The award of the said Commissioners or of any three of them as aforesaid, shall in all cases be final and conclusive, both as to the justice of the claim, and to the amount of the sum to be paid to the creditor or claimant : And the United States undertake to cause the sum so awarded to be paid in specie to such creditor or claimant without deduction ; and at such time or times, and at such place or places as shall be awarded by the said Commissioners ; and on condition of such releases or assignments to be given by the creditor or claimant, as by the said Commissioners may be directed : Provided always, that no such payment shall be fixed by the said Commissioners to take place sooner than twelve months from the day of the exchange of the ratifications of this Treaty.

ART. VII. Whereas complaints have been made by divers merchants and others, citizens of the United States, that during the course of the war in which his Majesty is now engaged, they have sustained considerable losses and damage, by reason of irregular or illegal captures or condemnations of their vessels and other property under colour of authority or commissions from his Majesty, and that from various circumstances belonging to the said cases, adequate compensation for the losses and damages so sustained cannot now be actually obtained, had and received by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings ; it is agreed, that in all such cases where adequate compensation cannot, for whatever reason, be now actually obtained, had and received by the said merchants and others in the ordinary course of justice, full and complete compensation for the same will be made by the British Government to the said complainants. But it is distinctly understood that this provision is not
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to extend to such losses or damages as have been occasioned by the manifest delay or negligence, or wilful omission of the claimants.

That for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of any such losses and damages, five Commissioners shall be appointed and authorized to act in *London*, exactly in the manner directed with respect to those mentioned in the preceding article, and after having taken the same oath or affirmation (*mutatis mutandis*) the same term of eighteen months is also assigned for the reception of claims, and they are in like manner authorized to extend the same in particular cases. They shall receive testimony, books, papers and evidence in the same latitude, and exercise the like discretion and powers respecting that subject; and shall decide the claims in question according to the merits of the several cases, and to justice, equity, and the laws of nations. The award of the said Commissioners, or any such three of them as aforesaid, shall, in all cases be final and conclusive, both as to the justice of the claim, and the amount of the sum to be paid to the claimant; and his Britannic Majesty undertakes to cause the same to be paid to such claimant in specie, without any deduction, at such place or places, and at such time or times as shall be awarded by the said Commissioners, and on condition of such releases or assignments to be given by the claimants, as by the said Commissioners may be directed.

And whereas certain merchants and others his Majesty's subjects complain that in the course of the war they have sustained loss and damage by reason of the capture of the vessels and merchandize taken within the limits and jurisdiction of the states and brought into the ports of the same, or taken by vessels originally armed in ports of the said states;

It is agreed that in all such cases where restitution shall not have been made agreeably to the tenor of the letter from Mr. JEFFERSON to Mr. HAMMOND, dated at *Philadelphia* Sept. 5, 1793, a copy of which is annexed to this Treaty; the complaints of the parties shall be and hereby are referred to the Commissioners to be appointed by virtue of this article, who are hereby authorized and required to pro-
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ceed in the like manner relative to these as to the other cases committed to them ; and the United States undertake to pay to the complainants or claimants in specie, without deduction, the amount of such sums as shall be awarded to them respectively by the said Commissioners, and at the times and places which in such awards shall be specified ; and on conditions of such releases or assignments to be given by the claimants as in the said awards may be directed : And it is further agreed that not only the now existing cases of both descriptions but also all such as shall exist at the time of exchanging the ratifications of this Treaty shall be considered as being within the provisions, intent and meaning of this article.

ART. VIII. It is further agreed, that the Commissioners mentioned in this and in the two preceding articles shall be respectively paid in such manner as shall be agreed between the two parties ; such agreement being to be settled at the time of the exchange of the ratifications of this Treaty. All other expences attending the said commissions shall be defrayed jointly by the two parties, the same being previously ascertained and allowed by the majority of the Commissioners. And in case of death, sickness or necessary absence, the place of every such Commissioner respectively shall be supplied in the same manner as such Commissioner was first appointed, and the new Commissioners shall take the same oath or affirmation and do the same duties.

ART. IX. It is agreed that British subjects who now hold lands in the territories of the United States, and American citizens who now hold lands in the dominions of his Majesty shall continue to hold them according to the nature and tenure of their respective estates and titles therein ; and may grant, sell or devise the same to whom they please, in like manner as if they were natives ; and that neither they nor their heirs or assigns shall so far as may respect the said lands and the legal remedies incident thereto, be regarded as aliens.

ART. X. Neither the debts due from individuals of the one nation to individuals of the other, nor shares nor monies which they may

may have in the public funds, or in the public or private banks shall ever in any event of war or national differences be sequestered or confiscated, it being unjust and impolitic that debts and engagements contracted and made by individuals having confidence in each other, and in their respective governments should ever be destroyed or impaired by national authority, on account of national differences and discontents.

ART. XI. It is agreed between his Majesty and the United States of America, that there shall be a reciprocal and entirely perfect liberty of navigation and commerce between their respective people, in the manner, under the limitations and on the conditions specified in the following articles :

ART. XII. His Majesty consents that it shall and may be lawful during the time hereinafter limited, for the citizens of the United States to carry to any of his Majesty's islands and ports in the West-Indies from the United States, in their own vessels, not being above the burthen of 70 tons, any goods or merchandizes being of the growth, manufacture or produce of the said States, which it is or may be lawful to carry to the said islands or ports from the said States, in British vessels ; and that the said American vessels shall be subject there to no other or higher tonnage duties or charges than shall be payable by British vessels in the ports of the United States ; and that the cargoes of the said American vessels shall be subject there to no other or higher duties or charges than shall be payable on the like articles if imported there from the said States in British vessels.

And his Majesty also consents that it shall be lawful for the said American citizens to purchase, load and carry away in their said vessels to the United States, from the said islands and ports, all such articles, being of the growth, manufacture or produce of the said islands, as may now by law be carried from thence to the said States in British vessels, and subject only to the same duties and charges on exportation, to which British vessels and their cargoes are or shall be subject in similar circumstances.

Provided

Provided always, that the said American vessels do carry and land their cargoes in the United States only, it being expressly agreed and declared, that during the continuance of this article, the United States will prohibit and restrain the carrying any molasses, sugar, coffee, cocoa, or cotton, in American vessels, either from his Majesty's Islands or from the United States, to any part of the world, except the United States, reasonable sea stores excepted. Provided also, that it shall and may be lawful, during the same period, for British vessels to import from the said islands into the United States, and to export from the United States to the said islands, all articles whatever, being of the growth, produce, or manufacture of the said islands, or of the United States respectively, which now may, by the laws of the said States, be so imported and exported. And that the cargoes of the said British vessels shall be subject to no other or higher duties or charges, than shall be payable on the same articles if so imported or exported in American vessels :

It is agreed, that this article, and every matter and thing therein contained shall continue to be in force during the continuance of the war in which his Majesty is now engaged ; and also for two years from and after the day of the signature of the preliminary or other articles of peace by which the same may be terminated.

And it is further agreed, that at the expiration of the said term, the two contracting parties will endeavour further to regulate their commerce in this respect according to the situation in which his Majesty may then find himself with respect to the West-Indies, and with a view to such arrangements as may best conduce to the mutual advantage and extension of commerce. And the said parties will then also renew their discussions, and endeavour to agree, whether in any and what cases, neutral vessels shall protect enemy's property ; and in what cases provisions and other articles, not generally contraband, may become such. But in the mean time their conduct towards each other in these respects, shall be regulated by the articles hereinafter inserted on those subjects.

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ART. XIII. His Majesty consents that the vessels belonging to the citizens of the United States of America shall be admitted and hospitably received in all the sea-ports and harbours of the British territories in the East-Indies. And that the citizens of the said United States may freely carry on a trade between the said territories and the said United States in all articles of which the importation or exportation respectively to or from the said territories, shall not be entirely prohibited. Provided only, that it shall not be lawful for them in any time of war between the British Government, and any other power or state whatever, to export from the said territories, without the special permission of the British Government there, any Military Stores or Naval Stores or Rice. The citizens of the United States shall pay for their vessels when admitted into the said ports, no other or higher tonnage duty than shall be payable on British vessels, when admitted into the ports of the United States. And they shall pay no other or higher duties or charges on the importation or exportation of the cargoes of the said vessels, than shall be payable on the same articles when imported or exported in British vessels. But it is expressly agreed, that the vessels of the United States shall not carry any of the articles exported by them from the said British territories to any port or place except to some port or place in America, where the same shall be unladen, and such regulations shall be adopted by both parties, as shall from time to time be found necessary to enforce the due and faithful observance of this stipulation. It is also understood, that the permission granted by this article is not to extend to allow the vessels of the United States to carry on any part of the coasting-trade of the said British territories; but vessels going with their original cargoes, or part thereof, from one port of discharge to another, are not to be considered as carrying on the coasting-trade. Neither is this article to be construed to allow the citizens of the said States to settle or reside within the said territories, or to go into the interior parts thereof, without the permission of the British Government established there; and if any transgression shall be attempted against the regulations of the British Government in this respect, the observance

observance of the same shall and may be enforced against the citizens of America, in the same manner as against British subjects or others transgressing the same rule. And the citizens of the United States whenever they arrive in any port or harbor in the said territories, or if they should be permitted in manner aforesaid, to go to any other place therein, shall always be subject to the laws, government and jurisdiction of what nature established in such harbour, port or place, according as the same may be: The citizens of the United States may also touch for refreshment at the island of St. Helena, but subject in all respects to such regulations as the British Government may from time to time establish there.

ART. XIV. There shall be between all the dominions of his Majesty in Europe, and the territories of the United States, a reciprocal and perfect liberty of commerce and navigation. The people and inhabitants of the two countries respectively shall have liberty freely and securely, and without hindrance and molestation to come with their ships and cargoes to the lands, countries, cities, ports, places and rivers within the dominions and territories aforesaid, to enter into the same, to resort there, and to remain and reside there, without any limitation of time: Also to hire and possess houses and warehouses for the purposes of their commerce, and generally the merchants and traders on each side shall enjoy the most complete protection and security for their commerce; but subject always as to what respects this article to the laws and statutes of the two countries respectively.

ART. XV. It is agreed that no other or higher duties shall be paid by the ships or merchandize of the one party in the ports of the other, than such as are paid by the like vessels or merchandize of all other nations. Nor shall any other or higher duty be imposed in one country, on the importation of any articles of the growth, produce or manufacture of the other, than are or shall be payable on the importation of the like articles, being of the growth, produce, or manufacture of any other foreign country. Nor shall any prohibition be imposed on the exportation or importation of any articles to

or from the territories of the two parties respectively, which shall not equally extend to all other nations.

But the British Government reserves to itself the right of imposing on American vessels entering into the British ports in *Europe* a tonnage duty equal to that which shall be payable by British vessels in the ports of America : And also such duty as may be adequate to countervail the difference of duty now payable on the importation of European and Asiatic goods when imported into the United States in British or in American vessels.

The two parties agree to treat for the more exact equalization of the duties on the respective navigation of their subjects and people in such manner as may be most beneficial to the two countries. The arrangements for this purpose shall be made at the same time with those mentioned at the conclusion of the 12th article of this treaty, and are to be considered as a part thereof. In the interval it is agreed, that the United States will not impose any new or additional tonnage duties on British vessels, nor increase the now subsisting difference between the duties payable on the importation of any articles in British or in American vessels.

ART. XVI. It shall be free for the two contracting parties, respectively to appoint Consuls for the protection of trade, to reside in the dominions and territories aforesaid, and the said Consuls shall enjoy those liberties and rights which belong to them by reason of their function. But before any Consul shall act as such he shall be in the usual forms approved and admitted by the party to whom he is sent ; and it is hereby declared to be lawful and proper, that in case of illegal or improper conduct towards the laws or government a Consul may either be punished according to law, if the laws will reach the case, or be dismissed, or even sent back, the offended government assigning to the other their reasons for the same.

Either of the parties may except from the residence of Consuls such particular places as such party shall judge proper to be so executed.

ART. XVII. It is agreed, that in all cases where vessels shall be captured or detained on just suspicion of having on board enemy's property, or of carrying to the enemy any of the articles which are contraband of war ; the said vessel shall be brought to the nearest or most convenient port ; and if any property of an enemy should be found on board such vessel, that part only which belongs to the enemy shall be made prize, and the vessel shall be at liberty to proceed with the remainder without any impediment. And it is agreed, that all proper measures shall be taken to prevent delay, in deciding the cases of ships or cargoes so brought in for adjudication; and in the payment or recovery of any indemnification adjudged or agreed to be paid to the masters or owners of such ships.

ART. XVIII. In order to regulate what is in future to be deemed contraband of war, it is agreed, that under the said denomination shall be comprized all arms and implements serving for the purposes of war, by land or sea, such as cannon, muskets, mortars, petards, bombs, grenadoes, carcasses, faucifles, carriages for cannon, musket rests, bandoliers, gun-powder, match, salt-petre, ball, pikes, swords, head pieces, cuirasses, halberts, lances, javelins, horse furniture, holsters, belts, and generally all other implements of war ; as also timber for ship-building, tar or rozin, copper in sheets, sails, hemp and cordage, and generally whatever may serve directly to the equipment of vessels, unwrought iron and fir planks only excepted ; and all the above articles are hereby declared to be just objects of confiscation, whenever they are attempted to be carried to an enemy.

And whereas the difficulty of agreeing on the precise cases in which alone provisions and other articles not generally contraband, may be regarded as such, renders it expedient to provide against the inconveniencies and misunderstandings which might thence arise : It is further agreed, that whenever any such articles so becoming contraband, according to the existing law of nations, shall for that reason be seized, the same shall not be confiscated, but the owners thereof shall be speedily and completely indemnified ; and the captors, or in their default the government under whose authority they act, shall pay

pay to the masters or owners of such vessels the full value of all articles, with a reasonable mercantile profit thereon, together with the freight, and also the demurrage incident to such detention.

And whereas it frequently happens that vessels sail for a port or place belonging to an enemy, without knowing that the same is either besieged, blockaded or invested ; it is agreed, that every vessel so circumstanced, may be turned away from such port or place; but she shall not be detained nor her cargo, if not contraband, be confiscated, unless after notice she shall again attempt to enter ; but she shall be permitted to go to any other port or place she may think proper : Nor shall any vessel or goods of either party, that may have entered into such port or place, before the same was besieged, blockaded or invested by the other, and be found therein after the reduction or surrender of such place, be liable to confiscation, but shall be restored to the owners or proprietors thereof.

ART. XIX. And that more abundant care be taken for the security of the respective subjects and citizens of the contracting parties, and to prevent their suffering injuries by the men of war, or privateers of either party, all commanders of ships of war and privateers and all others the said subjects and citizens shall forbear doing any damage to those of the other party, or committing any outrage against them, and if they act to the contrary, they shall be punished, and shall also be bound in their persons and estates to make satisfaction and reparation for all damages, and the interest thereof, of whatever nature the said damages may be.

For this cause all commanders of privateers before they receive their commissions shall hereafter be obliged to give before a competent Judge, sufficient security by at least two responsible sureties, who have no interest in the said privateer, each of whom, together with the said Commander, shall be jointly and severally bound in the sum of fifteen hundred pounds sterling, or if such ships be provided with above one hundred and fifty seamen or soldiers, in the sum of three thousand pounds sterling, to satisfy all damages and injuries,
which

which the said privateer or her officers or men, or any of them may do or commit during their cruize, contrary to the tenor of this Treaty, or to the laws and instructions for regulating their conduct; and further that in all cases of aggressions the said commissions shall be revoked and annulled.

It is also agreed that whenever a Judge of a Court of Admiralty of either of the parties, shall pronounce sentence against any vessel or goods or property belonging to the subjects or citizens of the other party, a formal and duly authenticated copy of all the proceedings in the cause, and of the said sentence, shall if required be delivered to the commander of the said vessel, without the smallest delay, he paying all legal fees and demands for the same.

ART. XX. It is further agreed that both the said contracting parties, shall not only refuse to receive any pirates into any of their ports, havens, or towns, or permit any of their inhabitants to receive, protect, harbour, conceal or assist them in any manner, but will bring to condign punishment all such inhabitants as shall be guilty of such acts or offences.

And all their ships with the goods or merchandizes taken by them and brought into the port of either of the said parties, shall be seized as far as they can be discovered and shall be restored to the owners or their factors or agents duly deputed and authorized in writing by them (proper evidence being first given in the Court of Admiralty for proving the property) even in case such effects should have passed into other hands by sale, if it be proved that the buyers knew or had good reason to believe, or suspect that they had been piratically taken.

ART. XXI. It is likewise agreed, that the subjects and citizens of the two nations, shall not do any acts of hostility or violence against each other, nor accept commissions or instructions so to act from any foreign Prince or State, enemies to the other party; nor shall the enemies of one of the parties be permitted to invite, or endeavour

deavour to enlist in their military service any of the subjects or citizens of the other party; and the laws against all such offences and aggressions shall be punctually executed. And if any subject or citizen of the said parties respectively shall accept any foreign commission, or letters of marque, for arming any vessel to act as a privateer against the other party, and be taken by the other party, it is hereby declared to be lawful for the said party to treat and punish the said subject or citizen, having such commission or letters of marque, as a pirate.

ART. XXII. It is expressly stipulated that neither of the said contracting parties will order or authorize any acts of reprisal against the other, on complaints of injuries or damages, until the said party shall first have presented to the other, a statement thereof, verified by competent proof and evidence, and demanding justice and satisfaction, and the same shall either have been refused or unreasonably delayed.

ART. XXIII. The ships of war of each of the contracting parties shall, at all times be hospitably received in the ports of the other, their officers and crews, paying due respect to the laws and government of the country. The Officers shall be treated with that respect which is due to the commissions which they bear, and if any insult should be offered to them by any of the inhabitants, all offenders in this respect, shall be punished as disturbers of the peace and amity between the two countries. And his Majesty consents that in case an American vessel should by stress of weather, danger from enemies, or other misfortunes be reduced to the necessity of seeking shelter in any of his Majesty's ports, into which such vessel could not in ordinary cases claim to be admitted, she shall on manifesting that necessity to the satisfaction of the government of the place, be hospitably received and permitted to refit and to purchase at the market price such necessaries, as she may stand in need of, conformably to such orders and regulations as the government of the place, having respect to the circumstances of each case shall prescribe. She shall not be allowed to break bulk or unload her cargo unless the same shall be

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bona fide necessary to her being refitted. Nor shall be permitted to sell any part of her cargo, unless so much only as may be necessary to defray her expences, and then not without the exprefs permission of the government of the place. Nor shall she be obliged to pay any duties whatever, except only on such articles as she may be permitted to sell for the purpose aforesaid.

ART. XXIV. It shall not be lawful for any foreign privateers, (not being subjects or citizens of either of the said parties) who have commissions from any other Prince or State in enmity with either nation, to arm their ships in the ports of either of the said parties, nor to sell what they have taken, nor in any other manner to exchange the same; nor shall they be allowed to purchase more provisions than shall be necessary for their going to the nearest port of that Prince or State, from whom they obtained their commissions.

ART. XXV. It shall be lawful for the ships of war and privateers belonging to the said parties respectively, to carry whithersoever they please, the ships and goods taken from their enemies, without being obliged to pay any fee to the Officers of the Admiralty, or to any Judges whatever; nor shall the said prizes when they arrive at, and enter the ports of the said parties, be detained or seized, neither shall the searchers or other Officers of those places visit such prizes, (except for the purpose of preventing the carrying of any part of the cargo thereof, on shore, in any manner contrary to the established laws of Revenue, Navigation, or Commerce) nor shall such officers take cognizance of the validity of such prizes; but they shall be at liberty to hoist sail and depart as speedily as may be, and carry their said prizes to the place mentioned in their commissions or patents, which the commanders of the said ships of war or privateers shall be obliged to shew. No shelter or refuge shall be given in their ports to such as have made a prize upon the subjects or citizens of either of the said parties; but if forced by stress of weather, or the danger of the sea, to enter therein, particular care shall be taken to hasten their departure, and to cause them to retire as soon as possible. Nothing in this Treaty contained shall however
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be construed to operate contrary to former and existing public treaties with other Sovereigns or States. But the two parties agree, that while they continue in amity neither of them will in future make any treaty that shall be inconsistent with this or the preceding article.

Neither of the said parties shall permit the ships or goods belonging to the subjects or citizens of the other, to be taken within cannon shot of the coast, nor in any of the bays, ports or rivers of their territories by ships of war, or others having commission from any Prince, Republic, or State whatever. But in case it should so happen, the party whose territorial rights shall thus have been violated, shall use his utmost endeavours to obtain from the offending party, full and ample satisfaction for the vessel or vessels so taken, whether the same be vessels of war or merchant vessels.

ART. XXVI. If at any time a rupture should take place, (which God forbid) between his Majesty and the United States, the Merchants and others of each of the two nations residing in the dominions of the other, shall have the privilege of remaining and continuing their trade so long as they behave peaceably, and commit no offence against the laws; and in case their conduct should render them suspected and the respective governments should think proper to order them to remove, the term of twelve months from the publication of the order shall be allowed them for that purpose, to remove with their families, effects and property; but this favour shall not be extended to those who shall act contrary to the established laws, and for greater certainty, it is declared that such rupture shall not be deemed to exist while negotiations for accommodating differences shall be depending, nor until the respective Ambassadors or Ministers, if such there shall be, shall be recalled, or sent home on account of such differences, and not on account of personal misconduct, according to the nature and degrees of which both parties retain their rights, either to request the recall, or immediately to send home

home the Ambassador or Minister of the other ; and that without prejudice to their mutual friendship and good understanding.

ART. XXVII. It is further agreed that his Majesty, and the United States on mutual requisitions, by them respectively, or by their respective Ministers or Officers authorized to make the same, will deliver up to justice all persons, who being charged with murder or forgery, committed within the jurisdiction of either, shall seek an asylum within any of the countries of the other, provided that this shall only be done on such evidence of criminality as, according to the laws of the place, where the fugitive or person so charged shall be found, would justify his apprehension and commitment for trial, if the offence had there been committed. The expence of such apprehension and delivery shall be borne and defrayed by those who make the requisition and receive the fugitive.

ART. XXVIII. It is agreed, that the first ten articles of this Treaty shall be permanent, and that the subsequent articles, except the twelfth, shall be limited in their duration to twelve years, to be computed from the day on which the ratifications of this Treaty shall be exchanged, but subject to this condition—that whereas the said twelfth article will expire by the limitation therein contained, at the end of two years from the signing the preliminary or other articles of peace which shall terminate the present war in which his Majesty is engaged, it is agreed that proper measures shall by concert be taken for bringing the subject of that article into amicable treaty and discussion, so early before the expiration of the said term, as that new arrangements on that head, may by that time be perfected and ready to take place. But if it should unfortunately happen, that his Majesty and the United States should not be able to agree on such new arrangements, in that case all the articles of this Treaty, except the first ten, shall then cease and expire together.

LASTLY. This Treaty, when the same shall have been ratified by his Majesty, and by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of their Senate, and the respective ratifications mutually

mutually exchanged, shall be binding and obligatory on his Majesty and on the said States, and shall be by them respectively executed and observed with punctuality, and the most sincere regard to good faith ; and whereas it will be expedient, in order the better to facilitate intercourse and obviate difficulties, that other articles be proposed and added to this treaty, which articles from want of time and other circumstances, cannot now be perfected—it is agreed, that the said parties will, from time to time, readily treat of and concerning such articles, and will sincerely endeavour so to form them, as that they may conduce to mutual convenience, and tend to promote mutual satisfaction and friendship ; and that the said articles, after having been duly ratified, shall be added to and make a part of this Treaty. In faith whereof, we the undersigned Ministers Plenipotentiary of his Majesty the King of Great-Britain and the United States of America, have signed this present Treaty, and have caused to be affixed thereto the Seal of our Arms.

Done at London, this Nineteenth day of November, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four.

GRENVILLE, (SEAL.)

JOHN JAY, (SEAL.)

CONDITIONAL RATIFICATION *on the part of the United States.*

IN SENATE, JUNE 24, 1795.

RESOLVED, *That the Senate do consent to, and advise the President of the United States to ratify the Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation between his Britannic Majesty and the United States of America, concluded at London the 19th November, 1794, on condition that there be added to the said Treaty, an article, whereby it shall be agreed to suspend the operation of so much of the 12th article, as respects the trade, which his said Majesty thereby consents may be carried on between the United States and his islands in the West-Indies, in the manner, and on the terms and conditions therein specified.*

And the Senate recommend to the President to proceed without delay to further friendly negotiations with his Majesty on the subject of the said trade, and of the terms and conditions in question.

PHILADELPHIA, SEPT. 5, 1793.

SIR,

I AM honoured with yours, of August 30. Mine of the 7th of that month assured you that measures were taken for excluding from all further asylum in our ports, vessels armed in them to cruize on nations with which we are at peace, and for the restoration of the prizes, the *Lovely Lass*, *Prince William Henry*, and the *Jane*, of Dublin; and that should the measures for restitution, fail in their effect, the President considered it as incumbent on the United States to make compensation for the vessels.

We are bound by our treaties with three of the belligerent nations, by all the means in our power to protect and defend their vessels and effects in our ports, or waters, or on the seas near our shores, and to recover and restore the same to the right owners when taken from them. If all the means in our power are used, and fail in their effect, we are not bound by our Treaties with those nations to make compensation.

Though we have no similar Treaty with Great-Britain, it was the opinion of the President that we should use towards that nation the same rule, which, under this article, was to govern us with the other nations, and even to extend it to captures made on the high seas, and brought into our ports, if done by vessels which had been armed within them.

Having, for particular reasons, forbore to use all the means in our power for the restitution of the three vessels mentioned in my letter of Aug. 7th, the President thought it incumbent on the United States to make compensation for them: And though nothing was said in that letter of other vessels taken under like circumstances and brought in after the 5th June, and before the date of that letter, yet when the same forbearance had taken place it was and is his opinion, that compensation would be equally due.

As to prizes made under the same circumstances, and brought in after the date of that letter the President determined, that all the means in our power should be used for their restitution. If these fail, as we should not be bound by our treaties to make compensation to the other powers in the analogous case, he did not mean to give an opinion that it ought to be done to Great-Britain. But still if any cases shall arise subsequent to that date, the circumstances of which shall place them on similar ground with those before it, the President would think compensation equally incumbent on the United States.

Instructions are given to the governors of the different states to use all the means in their power for restoring prizes of this last description found within their ports. Though they will of course take measures to be informed of them, and the general government has given them the aid of the custom house officers for this purpose, yet
you.

you will be sensible of the importance of multiplying the channels of their information, as far as shall depend on yourself, or any person under your direction, in order that the governors may use the means in their power for making restitution.

Without knowledge of the capture they cannot restore it. It will always be best to give the notice to them directly ; but any information which you shall be pleased to send to me also at any time, shall be forwarded to them as quickly as distance will permit.

Hence you will perceive, Sir, that the President contemplates restitution or compensation in the cases before the 7th August, and after that date, restitution if it can be effected by any means in our power. And that it will be important that you should substantiate the fact, that such prizes are in our ports or waters.

Your list of the privateers illicitly armed in our ports is, I believe, correct.

With respect to losses by detention, waste, spoilation sustained by vessels taken, as before-mentioned, between the dates of June 5th, and August 7th, it is proposed as a provisional measure, that the Collector of the Customs of the District, and the British Consul, or any other person you please, shall appoint persons to establish the value of the vessel and cargo, at the time of her capture and of her arrival in the port into which she is brought, according to their value in that port. If this shall be agreeable to you, and you will be pleased to signify it to me, with the names of the prizes understood to be of this description, instructions will be given accordingly to the Collector of the Customs where the respective vessels are.

I have the honour to be, &c.

[Signed]

THOMAS JEFFERSON.

GEORGE HAMMOND, Esq.

Objections.

Objections to the TREATY.

BOSTON, July 15, 1795.

AT a Meeting of the Inhabitants of the town of Boston, duly and legally warned and convened by adjournment, at Faneuil-Hall, on Monday, the 13th day of July, A. D. 1795.

A PAMPHLET printed at Philadelphia, under the signature of S. T. MASON, Esq. one of the Senators of the United States, from the Commonwealth of Virginia, and purporting to be a genuine copy of a Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation, entered into at London, on the 19th day of November last, between Lord GRENVILLE, on the part of his Britannic Majesty, and JOHN JAY, Esq. on the part of the United States—was read and duly considered, and thereupon it was

Resolved, As the sense of the inhabitants of this town, that the aforesaid instrument, if ratified, will be highly injurious to the commercial interests of the United States, derogatory to their national honor and independence, and may be dangerous to the peace and happiness of their citizens.

The reasons which have induced this opinion are as follow, viz.

1^{stly}. Because, this compact professes to have no reference to the merits of the complaints and pretensions of the contracting parties ; but in reality the complaints and pretensions of *Great Britain* are fully provided for, while a *part* only of those of the *United States* have been brought into consideration.

2^{dly}. Because, in the stipulation, which restores *our* Posts on the Western Frontiers, no provision is made to indemnify the United States for the commercial and other losses they have sustained, and the heavy expences to which they have been subjected in consequence

quence of being kept out of possession for *twelve years*, in direct violation of the Treaty of Peace.

3dly. Because, no indemnification is proposed to be made to the citizens of the United States for property taken from them at the close of the war, the restitution for which is provided for in the same Treaty.

4thly. Because the capture of vessels and property of citizens of the United States during the present war made under the authority of the Government of *Great-Britain*, is a national concern, and claims arising from such captures ought not to have been submitted to the decision of their Admiralty Courts, as the United States are thereby precluded from having a voice in the final determination of such cases; because, the indemnification proposed is to be sought by a process tedious and expensive, in which justice may be *delayed* to an unreasonable time and eventually *lost* to many of the sufferers, from their inability to pursue it; and because, this mode of indemnification bears no proportion to the *summary* method adopted for the satisfaction of British claims.

5thly. Because this compact admits British subjects to an equal participation with our own citizens, of the interior traffic of the United States with the neighboring Indians, through our whole territorial dominions; while the advantages ostensibly reciprocated to our citizens, are limited both in their nature and extent.

6thly. Because the *alien* duties upon merchandize imported into the United States by British subjects in their own bottoms is, if not *wholly* suspended, at *least* contracted, not to be encreased.

7thly. Because the Commerce we have hitherto enjoyed in India, *in common with other nations*, is so restricted, that in future it will be of little or no substantial benefit to our citizens.

8thly. Because in every stipulation respecting our intercourse with the *Colonial* possessions of *Great-Britain*, the whole Commerce of the United States in such intercourse, is *colonized* in return.

9thly.

9^{thly}. Because the clause by which the British Government reserves to itself the right of imposing on American vessels entering British ports in Europe, a duty which shall countervail the difference of the duty payable on the importation of European and Asiatic goods into the United States in British or American bottoms, places it in the power of *that* Government to enable British subjects to become the importers of Asiatic and European goods into the United States to the exclusion of *our own* citizens.

10^{thly}. Because, although the terms of said Treaty purport to be reciprocal in many instances, yet from the local situation and existing circumstances of the United States, and the pacific system of policy they have adopted, that reciprocity is merely nominal and delusive.

11^{thly}. Because it prevents the United States from imposing any further restrictions on the British trade alone, and because it stipulates that neither the debts due from individuals of one nation, to the individuals of the other, nor shares, nor monies which they may have in the public funds, or in any public or private Banks, shall ever in any event of war or national difference, be sequestered or confiscated—It is far from being impossible that the exercise of this right may in the opinion of the legislature of the United States, contribute to preserve the peace of our country, and protect the rights and property of the citizens from violation, we therefore esteem it highly impolitic that the public faith should be pledged that *it shall never* be exercised under any circumstances whatever.

12^{thly}. Because it concedes a right to the British Government to search and detain our vessels in time of war under frivolous and vexatious prettexts.

13^{thly}. Because it provides that ship timber, tar, hemp, sails and copper, shall be considered contraband of war, which articles are expressly stipulated to be free by the treaties already subsisting between the United States and all other nations with whom they are in compact.

14^{thly}.

14thly. Because it surrenders all or most of the benefits of a commercial nature which we had a right to expect from our neutrality in the present European war.

15thly. Because it precludes the hope of receiving any advantage from the modern law of nations, referred to in the President's Proclamation of Neutrality, adopted by most of the nations of Europe in the last war, and to which we *then* acceded, and have *since* secured in our treaties with all other nations.

16thly. Because it not only surrenders the right of carrying the property of any nation at war with *Great-Britain* in our vessels *freely*; but abandons all pretensions even to the freight.

17thly. Because it permits the British nation to convert provisions, destined to other nations at war with them, to their own use, on payment of what *they* may deem a reasonable profit; a measure not only injurious to the interests of the American merchant, but which will prevent our citizens from carrying American productions to other countries, which by the laws of nature and nations they have a right to do without molestation.

18thly. Because it limits the power of Congress delegated to them by the Constitution, "to regulate our Commerce with foreign nations," by prescribing conditions and creating impediments to the exercise of that power.

19thly. Because it exposes the United States and their Commerce to similar embarrassments from other commercial nations, all of whom will *probably* regulate our trade by this partial standard.

And lastly. Because, in the opinion of the inhabitants of this town, the nature and extent of the exports of the United States are such, that in all their stipulations with foreign nations, *they* have it in their power to secure a perfect reciprocity of intercourse not only with the Home Dominions of such nations, but with all their Colonial Dependencies.

It is further Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing proceedings, attested by the Town-Clerk, be immediately transmitted to the President of the United States, that they may be respectfully submitted to his consideration. And we earnestly hope, and confidently rely, that his prudence, fortitude, and wisdom, which have more than once been eminently instrumental in the salvation of his country, will be equally conspicuous on the present occasion, and that the reasons we have assigned will have their influence to withhold his signature from the ratification of this alarming instrument.

The Federalist.—No. 1.

As published in the Centinel, July 22, 1795.

THE OBJECTIONS TO THE TREATY REFUTED.

MR. RUSSELL,

THE Constitution of the United States, empowers the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present, concur.

In pursuance of a power thus vested, the Senate of the United States did consent to and advise the President of the United States to ratify the Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation, between his Britannic Majesty, and the United States of America, concluded at *London*, the 19th November, A. D, 1794 ; on condition that there be added to said treaty, an article whereby it shall be agreed to suspend the operation of so much of the 12th article, as respects the trade which his said Majesty thereby consents, may be carried on between the United States and his islands in the *West-Indies*, in the manner, and on the terms and conditions therein prescribed.

A copy

A copy of this treaty was sent by Mr. MASON, one of the Senators from *Virginia*, to the Editor of the *Aurora*, in *Philadelphia*, that it might be published.

On Tuesday, the 7th July, the Editors of the *Chronicle*, advertised in the *Mercury*, that a copy of the treaty before referred to, was brought by express from *Philadelphia*, and was for sale at their office, and at LARKIN'S book store, in Cornhill.

On the 8th July, a notification issued by order of the Selectmen of *Boston*, notifying the inhabitants to meet on the 10th, agreeable to the request of a number of inhabitants, to take into their most serious consideration, such measures as might be deemed expedient, relative to the treaty, pending between the United States and *Great Britain*.

On the 9th July, the Editors of the *Chronicle* published in their paper, the eight first articles of the Treaty.

The foregoing was the only publication of the Treaty, prior to the meeting of the inhabitants, on the 10th, except a publication of its supposed contents, by some one who had read it; and which, on comparison with Mr. MASON'S copy, appears to be incorrect.†

On the 10th, the inhabitants met in Faneuil Hall, where fifteen hundred of the citizens, without reading the Treaty there, voted their disapprobation, and not one appeared in favour of it.

A Committee of fifteen was appointed "to report the reasons in writing, which led to the disapprobation of the Treaty.

On Monday following, being the 13th, the Committee reported the objections of the town, before the reading of which, the treaty was read.—The objections were then accepted by the town, without one dissenting voice; and a vote passed, directing their immediate transmission to the President of the United States, and expressing "their earnest hope, and confident reliance, that the reason assigned would

† Note by the Editor.—It was published in an *Extra Centinel*, but not generally distributed, until the 10th.

would have their influence, to withhold his signature from the ratification of this alarming instrument."

The Senate met on the 8th June, from which time to the 24th, the merits of the proposed Treaty were discussed, with all the advantages that could be derived to this discussion, from examining documents that shew the real state of our Commerce ; the relation of this country to others ; the grounds of our complaints against the British, with their answers ; the grounds of complaint the British had against this country, with the answers of America. On the 24th, the Senate advised the President to ratify the Treaty, in manner and on the conditions specified in the first part of this paper.

A concurrence of two thirds of the number present, was necessary to constitute a vote of the Senate on this subject ; and it is understood that this majority included all the Senators from *New-England*, (except Mr. LANGDON, of *Portsmouth*, and Mr. ROBINSON, of *Vermont*,) one Senator from *New-York*, all from *New-Jersey*, *Pennsylvania*, *Delaware*, and *Maryland*, one from *Kentucky*, one from *South-Carolina*, and one from *Georgia*. *Virginia*, and *North-Carolina*, were the only States in the Union, whose Senators were unanimous against its ratification.

Unless the present conduct of these Senators, in advising the President to ratify the Treaty, has deprived them of the confidence of their fellow-citizens : It may be truly said, that as individual members of the community, none stand higher in the public estimation, as men of pure morals, sound understanding, industrious and steady attention to those duties, with which they have been intrusted. Their conduct, as public men, has been tried and known in times the most critical and dangerous, and has received the just tribute of applause, from a grateful country, for having preserved it from the distresses of anarchy and war.

Duty to ourselves demands that we should respect the legal and constitutional doings of those we have appointed to administer our public affairs ; at least so far as not to declare to the world, "*That their acts are highly injurious to the commercial interests of the United*
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ed States, derogatory to the national honor and independence, and may be dangerous to the peace and happiness of their citizens." Without the most careful investigation of the subject, and without the most substantial reasons in support of charges which so deeply wound the honor of government, and the character of those who have constitutionally done the act, thus boldly censured.

Men who love their country will endeavour to support its government, at least will refrain from grossly criminating its conduct, until they have been convinced that no good reasons can be offered, for that which to them, may at first appear doubtful. Such men ought not instantly to enlist under the banners of its avowed opponents, nor hastily surrender their judgments to those who have uniformly calumniated all those acts which time and experience have sanctioned, as wise and productive of greater prosperity than is enjoyed in any other country. Men who know the value of character, from a just regard of their own; who have sensibility duly to appreciate the worth of public fame, will be cautious how they attempt to inflict a wound on the reputation of others, which, if aimed at themselves, would produce the most painful sensations.

The town of *Boston* has given its reasons for assertions which have so deeply wounded the honor of the government—which assertions, if true, must extremely weaken the confidence of the people in the superiority of their own constitution.

Permit therefore, Mr. RUSSELL, a fellow-citizen, through the medium of your paper, to examine the solidity of their reasons, in proof of this declaration, that "*The Treaty if ratified will be highly injurious to the commercial interests of the United States, derogatory to their national honor and independence, and may be dangerous to the peace and happiness of their citizens.*"

The first is, "*that compact (meaning the Treaty) professes to have no reference to the merits of the complaints, and pretensions of the contracting parties; but in reality the complaints and pretensions of Great-Britain are fully provided for, while a part only of those of the United States have been brought into consideration.*"

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The words of the treaty are that "*The parties being desirous, by a Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation, to terminate their differences, in such a manner, as (without reference to the merits of their respective complaints and pretensions) may be the best calculated to produce mutual satisfaction and good understanding.*" The words of the Treaty are copied here, that by comparing them with the first reason of the town, the public may judge of their true import, and not be induced to believe, that the two nations met together, with the design of terminating their differences, and at the same time, disregarded the real subject of controversy.

The great charge in this reason is, that the complaints and pretensions of Great-Britain are fully provided for, while a part only, of those of the United States, *have been brought into consideration.*

It is to be presumed that the Committee meant here, that the Minister, on the part of America, never brought into consideration all the complaints and pretensions of his country.—Because if brought into consideration, and proved to be unfounded; or for any reason waved; it could not be expected that such consideration, or the reasons which refuted the complaints, should appear in the Treaty.—It would be useless and unprecedented.

That the American Minister did not bring them into consideration, is an assumption of a fact by the Committee, for which they have not given any evidence.

If the correspondence and arguments used by the Ministers who negotiated the Treaty, were before the town, or the Committee; or they had such information of their doings, as could be relied on, it would probably have been stated. Candor requires that before a charge of gross neglect is believed against any man, some evidence should be adduced to support the charge.

That every complaint, and pretension of the United States was duly made, and enforced by the American Minister, is to be presumed from his known fidelity, understanding and patriotism. It may also be inferred from the following considerations;

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The President of the United States undoubtedly gave him instructions on this head. The report made of the negotiation, would shew whether any thing was neglected on the part of the United States : This report was probably before the Senate.

It is not presumeable, that the President would accept the report of his Minister as satisfactory, or consider the negotiation as completed, unless every matter of importance was brought into consideration ; or that the Senate would recommend to the President, to ratify a Treaty that was to terminate all differences, when it appeared to them, that the complaints of our own country were not brought into consideration—further, it is not probable, that the minority of the Senate, who had before them the whole negotiation, would have neglected to state this, if it had existed, as a reason for rejecting this Treaty ; whereas in the communication made by Mr. MASON, no such charge appears, nor in the motions of Mr. TAZEWELL and Mr. BURR. It may therefore, fairly be inferred, until the town or its Committee, please to give some evidence to the contrary, that every complaint and pretension of the United States, was brought into consideration.

“The second reason is, because in the stipulation, which surrenders our posts on the Western Frontiers, no provision is made to indemnify the United States, for the commercial, and other losses they have sustained, and the heavy expenses to which they have been subjected, in consequence of being kept out of possession for twelve years, in direct violation of the Treaty of Peace.”

In this reason, the town must intend that no Treaty should be acceded to, unless the British nation would first agree to indemnify the United States for all losses, that arose from our not being in possession of the posts the last twelve years.—

This would be on the part of *Great-Britain*, to acknowledge that the inexecution of the Treaty of 1783, was entirely her fault—This is probably a matter she would dispute, and we are in candor obliged to acknowledge, that the 4th article of that Treaty which relates

relates to payment of debts, was opposed by some of the States very soon after, if not before the definitive Treaty was signed, and that it continued unexecuted in some of the southern States, until the Federal Government was established. If she can justly impute the first breach to the United States, our claim of indemnity, for her violation must be doubtful. But supposing it otherwise, and it be clear to us, that she retained the posts wrongfully, and without any just provocation on our part—Is it probable that she would so humiliate herself, as to confess she was the only party who acted wrong, and avow herself the author or cause of all the calamities which have, or which we suppose have been derived from the inexecution of that Treaty, and now submit to pay all the damages that had arisen therefrom?

In the various wars that have taken place, for the wrongful detention of territories; few, if any, are the instances, that the vanquished nation has paid for the injuries and losses that have arisen from such detention.

The most that is commonly attained, is a restoration of such territory. Independent nations, owing no superior, qualified to judge of their conduct, will seldom acknowledge they have done wrong, especially when possessed of power to support their own cause. It is wise both in a Minister, and a nation, to refrain from insisting on points, which would only produce crimination, and recrimination, without advancing the great objects of their negotiation. Let the candid consider, if it is probable, that any reasoning they could suggest, would have induced *Great-Britain*, to accede to such stipulation, as this objection supposes.

If not, would it be wise in us to refuse the posts, and still suffer the evils we feel from being deprived of them—or attempt to gain them by force? If successful in this latter mode, is it probable, that, at the end of a war, we could induce Britain to pay us the losses suffered by the twelve years detention, added to the duration of hostilities; and the further expences of a war undertaken to regain them—There are few men who will say such an event can be calculated

calculated on—If then it is not probable that *Great-Britain* could be induced by arguments to accede to this stipulation, nor that we could have attained it by war, it must certainly be considered wise in the minister to accept the posts, and in the Senate to advise to the ratification of the Treaty, notwithstanding she did not stipulate to pay the losses consequent on her detention of them—It ought also to be remarked, that although much has been said about making a demand of the posts, nothing has been intimated in public, that a demand should be made for damages, for not relinquishing them before; much less that we should refuse to receive them, unless we could be paid for such damages, or that we would attempt to gain such damages by war; especially when it had never been hinted, that the United States would hazard a war even to gain the posts.

The Federalist.—No. II.

As published in the Centinel, July 25, 1795.

THE OBJECTIONS TO THE TREATY REFUTED.

MR. RUSSELL,

THE third reason of the town of *Boston* against raising the treaty is because no indemnification is to be made to the citizens of the United States, for property taken from them at the close of the war, the restitution of which is provided for by the same treaty.

The words of the treaty of 1783, referred to by the town, are probably these. His Britannic Majesty shall with all convenient speed, and without *causing any destruction, or carrying away any negroes, or other property of the American inhabitants*, withdraw all his armies, &c. &c.

It is understood, that the United States contend that this description applies to negroes, remaining within the British lines, after the peace,

peace, but who had been captured or invited by proclamation, had fled to the British *during the war*. The British government contend for another construction, and say that negroes captured in war, or invited by proclamation, had taken refuge with them *during the war*, could be considered American property, no more than ships taken, or horses strayed to them *during the war*. That on the capture of negroes by the British, or the acceding by the negroes to the terms of their proclamation, they ceased to be the property of Americans.

If this reasoning of the British be not satisfactory to the people of the United States, candor will oblige them to admit, that the British government may think it just, and consequently a point extremely hard, if not impossible to be obtained from them, since the confession would imply a sacrifice of their public faith, which had been pledged to the negroes. It is not known that the British carried away other property.

The amount in value depending on this point is greatly exaggerated, having been stated, in conversation, at many millions of dollars; while it is known from authentic documents, that the whole number of negroes, to whom the provision in the treaty could possibly relate, fall short of 3000, that being the total carried away after the peace, including many free negroes, and many slaves, who with their proper masters had taken refuge within the British lines. Let any man make the probable deduction for free negroes, and those slaves, who accompanied their masters, and consider that the remainder included those of extreme old age, and the youngest infants, the sick and well, the worthless, and these of value, and he must be convinced, however unsatisfactory the construction given by the British may be to his mind, that the evil is not of great magnitude—by no means sufficient to press an indemnity for, in hazard of the property taken from our citizens on the ocean, in hazard of our peace, and other articles of the Treaty which may be considered beneficial to the United States.

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The 4th reason is, "*because the capture of vessels, and the property of the citizens of the United States, made under the authority of the government of Great-Britain, is a national concern, and claims arising from such captures ought not to have been submitted to the decision of their Admiralty Courts, as the United States are thereby precluded from having any voice in the final determination of such cases, and because the indemnification proposed to be made, is to be sought by a process tedious and expensive, in which justice may be delayed to an unreasonable time; and eventually lost to many of the sufferers from their inability to pursue it, and because this mode of indemnification bears no proportion to the summary method adopted for the satisfaction of British claims.*"

The first charge here is, that claims arising from captures made on American property, ought not to have been submitted to the decision of their Admiralty Courts.

In the year 1753, the King of Prussia complained to the King of Great-Britain, that the property of his subjects had been unlawfully captured and condemned on the high seas, by subjects of the King of Great-Britain. The reply then made, was, that the property had been regularly tried in the Admiralty Courts of Great-Britain, which courts tried causes according to the universal law of nations, and the stipulations of the treaty—that affairs of this kind are and can be cognizable only in the courts belonging to that power, where the seizure is made.

In our own country, the British Minister complained to Mr. JEFFERSON, then Secretary of State, that certain subjects of his King were injured by an inability to obtain their just demands.

Mr. JEFFERSON replied, "that no nation can answer for perfect exactitude of proceedings in all their inferior courts—it suffices to provide a supreme judicature, where error and partiality will be ultimately corrected. With this qualification, we have heretofore been in the habit of considering the administration of justice, in Great-Britain, as extremely pure. The administration of justice is a branch

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of the sovereignty over a country, and belongs exclusively to the nation inhabiting it—when a cause has been adjudged according to the rules and forms of the country, its justice ought to be presumed—If any instances of unlawful impediments have existed in any of the inferior tribunals, they would like other unlawful proceedings, have been over-ruled on an appeal to the higher courts: If not over-ruled, then a complaint to the government would have been regular, and their interference, probably effectual. If your citizens would not prosecute their rights, it was impossible they should recover them, or be denied recovery; and until a denial of right through all the tribunals, there is no ground of complaint."

Hence it appears that in other cases, and with other nations, this has been thought just by Great-Britain; and in our own country the doctrine has been adopted towards Great-Britain, and acquiesced in on her part.

It ought likewise to be remarked, that most of the seizures complained of by the American citizens, have been made by privateers owned by private individuals, and that every British subject has a right, which neither King nor Minister can deprive him of, to have his cause tried by the Courts of his country; and it is not impossible that some claims may have been made by Americans, where the property is liable by the law of nations, to be condemned. It ought also to be remembered, that the British government made provision for the regular bringing forward to trial, causes, which from certain circumstances of the claimants, had, by strict law, lost their right to a trial in the Supreme Courts of Admiralty, and that our own Government has sent a person to procure papers and documents from the Courts of Vice-Admiralty, to support the claims of our citizens; to enter appeals, and give security for their prosecution, free of expence to the claimants. The trial by Admiralty Courts is supported, alluded to, and enforced, by many treaties. *"In this method all captures at sea have been tried during all the late wars, by the European powers, and submitted to by the neutral powers. By Courts of Admiralty, acting according to the law of nations, and particular*

particular treaties, all captures at sea have immemorially been judged of, in every country of Europe; any other method of trial would be manifestly unjust, absurd and impracticable." Thus the law and customs of nations has been stated by the ablest and most respectable civilians of the present age.

It may justly be inferred, that the evils of the unfortunate people, whose property has been captured, will be redressed in a manner known, and practised by other nations in similar cases, and recognized as right by ourselves—that the injuries, apprehended by the town for the sufferers, from the expence attending the suits, and their incapacity to pursue their claims has been fully provided for by the American government.

To provide against evils which this method might not reach, it is expressly warranted, in the 7th article of the treaty, *that in all cases where adequate compensation cannot, for whatever reason, be now actually obtained, had and received, by the said merchants, and others in the ordinary course of justice, full and complete compensation for the same, will be made by the British government, to the said complainants."*

The other part of the charge, contained in this reason, is, that this mode of indemnification bears no proportion to the summary one adopted for the satisfaction of British claims.

The same 7th article of the treaty stipulates, that the declaration of the President, as contained in Mr. JEFFERSON's letter of the 5th September, 1793, to Mr. HAMMOND, shall be carried into execution. This letter which is annexed to the Treaty, states, that *having for particular reasons forbore to use all the means in the power of the United States, for the restitution of certain vessels, the President thought it incumbent on the United States, to make compensation therefor.*

The government of the United States voluntarily forbearing to make use of all the means in their power to obtain justice for certain British subjects, is certainly a different case from captures by British subjects of American property, on which the British government

ernment expressly stipulates that she will make use of all the means in her power to obtain restitution from the captors, of property wrongfully taken, and if these means are inadequate, from whatever reason, *she* will make full and complete compensation to the complainant. The American government having decided that the demand of the British Minister was right, chose between two evils, viz. That of compelling restitution from the wrong doer, when in their power, or making compensation itself—it chose the latter.

The British government chose the former, and Mr. JEFFERSON declares in the letter before referred to, *that where all the means in the power of the nation are used to obtain restitution, and they fail, he did not mean to give an opinion, that restitution ought to be made by the government*—but in this case Mr. JAY has induced the British government to use all the means in her power, and make compensation where these fail.

It is presumed that a reference to the article in the Treaty, Mr. JEFFERSON's letter, and a consideration of the law of nations, as recognized by Europe and America, will convince all candid men, that the fourth reason of the town ought to have no weight against the Treaty.

The fifth reason is, *“because this compact admits British subjects to an equal participation with our own citizens, of the interior traffic of the United States with Indians, through our whole territorial dominions, while the advantages ostensibly reciprocated to our citizens, are limited both in their nature and extent.”*

It hath been well understood, by men acquainted with the country occupied by Indians, within the territory of the United States, and that which falls within the British dominions, that by far the greatest proportion of furs are collected within the British dominions. If this is true, much is gained to the United States, by the fur trade, while Britain has nothing in return, but the liberty of traversing a wilderness, from which no traffic can be obtained. A little reflection will convince us that our means of paying for such furs

furs, and our export trade opened by this treaty, are really superior to the benefits derived to Britain, and will prove a source of great wealth to the Americans.

While we are possessed of an extent of sea-coast in America, so immense, compared with that of Great-Britain, it will be readily seen, that the European and Asiatic goods, the latter of which can be afforded on better terms by us than the subjects of Great-Britain, exported from the United States, into their interior countries, must greatly exceed any quantities the British colonists can ever bring into the United States on that quarter. The embarrassments attending an importation from Europe into Canada, New-Brunswick, and Nova-Scotia, by sea, and confined as the inhabitants of these countries are in their trade to the mother country, compared with our advantages of supplying them, by our easy communication with them, and with every part of the world, will convince all candid men, that the advantages of this part of the treaty are chiefly on our side.

But still it may be said, they have a right to come into our country, and we have not a right to enter the seaports of their colonies in our own vessels. If it appears from an examination of the advantages and disadvantages of the article of the treaty here referred to, that we receive more than we grant ; it must be admitted, that this reason ought not to prevail against a ratification of the treaty.

By the treaty we are equally admitted into each others territory on the land board, for the purposes of traffic. Before the treaty is ratified, neither enjoys this right. They enter our sea-ports as freely now, as they can by the treaty—we are not permitted to enter theirs. This instrument gives them no new right on the sea board. It does not diminish any we possess. Under the treaty we can carry on commerce with their colonies by land. From reasons before stated, our trade there must be very advantageous, while theirs in our territory cannot be disadvantageous.

By this article therefore, it appears we have gained much, for which we have given but little, if any thing ; for none will pretend that by means of the lakes, the British colonists can undersell the
American

American merchants, still less will any pretend that we do not gain immensely more of the fur-trade, than we grant.

The sixth reason is, "*because the alien duty upon merchandize, imported into the United States by British subjects in their own bottoms, is, if not wholly suspended, at least contracted not to be encreased.*"

The 15th art. of the treaty, contains a stipulation of the parties, that places their ships and merchandizes reciprocally on the footing of the most favored nations, and merely reserves a right to the British government, to impose on American vessels, entering into British ports in Europe, a tonnage duty equal to what British vessels pay in American ports, and such duty as may be adequate to countervail the difference of duty, now payable on the importation of European and Asiatic goods, when imported into the United States, in British or in American vessels.

This must be the article to which the fifth reason alludes; and it certainly cannot be "derogatory to our national honor and independence," to be willing to meet the British nation on terms of equality, when it is considered, that we have similar articles in our treaties with France, the United Netherlands, Sweden and Prussia ---that it is common in most of the modern treaties, and especially was of late inserted in the Treaty between France and Great-Britain; at least it behoves those who make the objection, to shew in what consists our power to compel a nation to trade with us, on terms by which we shall impose heavier duties on her trade, than we do on others, while she imposes no heavier duties on us, than she does on others.

In general terms it has been said, that the treaty was not reciprocal; here is an objection that it is reciprocal.

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The Federalist.—No. III.

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THE OBJECTIONS TO THE TREATY REFUTED.

MR. RUSSELL,

THE 7th reason is “because the Commerce we have hitherto enjoyed in India, in common with other nations, is so restricted, that in future it will be of little or no substantial benefit to our citizens.”

In the first place, it ought to be remarked, that according to the rights, claimed by all nations, having colonies, to which all other nations have acceded, we have no positive right to go to any of the colonies of the British crown; and that unless such right is obtained by Treaty the British may prohibit our trading, or even entering the ports of their colonial possessions, without affording us any just cause of complaint. The right of confining the trade of colonies to the parent country, and excluding all strangers from any participation therein, is as old, and as universal as any claimed by the present commercial nations of *Europe*.

By our Treaty with *France*, his Most Christian Majesty agrees to continue to the subjects of the United States, the free ports which have been, and are open to the French islands of *America*: Of all which free ports the said subjects shall enjoy the use, agreeable to the regulations which relate to them.

An arret of the King of *France* on the 30th August, 1784, declares the free ports in the islands of *America*, and the regulations they shall be subject to--- the size of vessels---the articles they may carry in, and bring away. The vessels are to be *sixty* tons, at the least, and the merchandizes, wood, salt beef, fish, rice, maize, vegetables, skins, furs, rosin, pitch and tar---Salt beef and fish are subjected to a duty of 3 livres per quintal, beside the general duties on the cargo; which three livres are converted into a bounty on the French

French fishery. The articles, permitted to be taken away in return, were limited to taffia and molasses--and goods imported there from *France*. Commissioners were to be appointed to reside in these free ports, to see that the regulations were strictly complied with ; and the more securely to guard the trade, the merchants and Captains of vessels, residing in those ports, were authorized to choose from among themselves, Commissioners who should assist in watching the foreign vessels and denouncing negligencies. By our Treaty with the *United Netherlands*, it is expressly agreed, "*that the United States, their subjects, and inhabitants, shall leave to those of their High Mightinesses the peaceable enjoyment of their rights in the countries, islands and seas in the East and West-Indies, without any hindrance or molestation.*"-- It appears then, that the right of excluding foreigners from a direct trade to their colonies, and confining the trade of the colonists to the mother country is not only practiced among all the European nations, but has been expressly recognized by the *United States of America*. Hence it clearly follows, that every relaxation of the colonial system, must be considered as a favor to that nation, in whose behalf it is so relaxed. This used to be our reasoning on the arrest of the King of *France*, admitting us, in common with other foreigners, into the *West-Indies*, however limited in the tonnage of the vessel, and the cargoes permitted to be imported, and exported.

This is considered to be the permanent state of things. In times of great scarcity in the islands, they have been free for the importation of certain other articles. In times of war, the French have generally opened their colonies to all foreigners, because it is more important to have their seamen, on board their ships of war, than be the sole suppliers, and carriers for their colonies. During the last war, in the year 1779, the French opened the trade of their *West-India* islands to neutral nations ; the consequences were alarming to the merchants in *France*, and representations against the measure were made from *Bordeaux*, *Nantz*, and other large towns ; and immediately on signing the preliminary articles of peace, this permission to neutral nations, was withdrawn.

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The same was done at the *Havannah*. While *Louisburg* and *Canada*, were colonies of *France*, they were not allowed a direct trade to the West-Indies. And such has been the jealousy of European nations respecting their colonies, that *France* once passed a decree, ordering the Governors of their West India colonies to seize and confiscate ships and cargoes, coming within a league of the shores of their islands.

The right we enjoy, without Treaty, of going to the British East-Indies is merely permissive in that nation. The trade has been but of few years—Lord SHEFFIELD in his argument against admitting the Americans into the West-India islands, remarks, “that the Americans have no more pretensions to go to our West-India islands, than to our East-India settlements, yet the latter would be thought a very extraordinary step.”

The sentiments of this writer have been much adopted by the British government relative to their West-Indies, since the revolution, any may therefore give us some idea what that nation thinks of our right to a commerce with their East-India settlements. If *Great-Britain* should refuse to admit our vessels into her *East-India* possessions, it would be no just cause of complaint, on the part of the United States. *France* and *Spain*, as has been shewn, opened the trade of some of their colonies, during the last war, to all neutral nations; and immediately on return of peace, that trade was again confined to the parent countries—Neither the United States, nor any other nation, who had enjoyed the benefits of this free trade, pretended to claim a continuance, because it had been permitted to them, or to deny the authority of these two nations, to prohibit them entering their colonial possessions, much less to make complaint at being denied a privilege, before indulged to them.

Having then no right of commerce to the British *East-Indies*, which that nation may not take from us, without just cause of complaint on our part, let us consider what are the restrictions imposed on the trade by treaty, and whether it will not continue to be of substantial benefit to our citizens, notwithstanding these restrictions.

By the 13th article, there is an express stipulation on the part of the British King, that we shall freely carry on a trade with the British East-Indies, paying a tonnage duty on our vessels, no higher than British vessels pay in American ports, and no higher duties on the importation and exportation of their cargoes, than shall be payable on the same articles, when imported or exported in British vessels, the articles exported to be carried to the United States and there unladen, and both parties, whenever it shall be found necessary, shall adopt such regulations as shall be necessary to the due observance of this stipulation.

Two questions arise on this part of the article—first, supposing the trade to be absolutely confined to the carrying of merchandize of any sort, not absolutely prohibited, to the British East-Indies, and the importing from those settlements, directly into the United States, all articles not absolutely prohibited.

Is a trade thus limited, substantially beneficial? We must either procure the produce of that country, directly from the East-Indies, making payment there, in such articles as shall be convenient for us to carry, and suited to their market; or we must buy them in *Europe*, and pay for them there.

Taking for granted then, that there is no profit on the cargo carried to the East-Indies, (though sometimes very great profits are made on the outward cargo,) let it be considered that in the first case, we procure all our East India goods, at the first cost, from the hands of the producer. In the latter, they are purchased with all the additional charges of freight to *Europe*, commissions, and profits of every man concerned in procuring them in India, sending them to *Europe*, and selling them there; and when it is remembered that the trade from *Europe* is exclusively vested in companies, which pay an immense sum for this monopoly, and is at vast expense for the support of military and civil establishments, to secure their trade and possessions, and the orderly management of their concerns; all which must be charges on the goods, before they are sold in *Europe*; it cannot be doubted that the direct trade to and from the
British

British East-Indies, will continue to be substantially beneficial. Indeed it is a well authenticated fact, that East-India goods are twenty-five per cent. cheaper in the *United States* than in *Europe*; and if imported from *Europe* by us, the charge must be made of at least ten per cent. more, which would arise for commissions and exchange. It is clear then that we should procure our East India goods from thirty to forty per centum cheaper under this article, than without permission to go to the East-Indies, which it secures to us; the difference may be fairly called a substantial benefit to our citizens. This is the case in times of peace. In times of war, the difference will be greater, the charges in *Europe*, being greatly accumulated by war, freight, and insurance.

The other question that arises on this article is, are we, that is to say, both nations, constrained to keep this trade thus limited? Has not *Britain* the power to grant, and the *United States* the capacity to exercise the right of carrying East-India goods to *Europe*, if both parties consent. When two make a contract, in which no other is interested; may they not dissolve it, if both please? If dissolve it, may they not grant to each other larger and greater benefits than are stipulated in the contract? Does stipulating to grant a right, by an individual or a nation, preclude a power to extend that right, or grant or permit the exercise of others. Is there any moral or natural incapacity in the *United States*, to receive an extension of the Commerce, granted in that article? Is there any in *Great-Britain* to grant? The answer must be clear, and will readily shew, that having certain rights by express stipulation, cannot interfere with the grant or permission of others.

Has any other power a right then to prohibit *Britain* from permitting, and *America* from exercising other rights? It is not pretended there is any.

If the Treaty is ratified, and *Great-Britain* shall choose to demand of us to make such regulations as will insure to them, that the vessels of the *United States*, shall carry the goods laden in the East-Indies to the *United States*, and there unlade them, we shall be bound

bound to do it. But as this is a stipulation on our part, and for her benefit, if she chooses to waive it, and clear out our vessels from her ports for *Europe*, they will have a right to go there. The Custom-House clearance would be an express consent on her part, and our right could not be contested by any one.

A mistake of the Treaty has induced some people to suppose there are more restrictions on this trade, than is fairly warranted by the article.

It has been supposed, that the coasting trade of India, now enjoyed, is henceforth absolutely interdicted. The words are, "*It is also understood, that the permission granted by this article is not to extend to allow the vessels of the United States to carry on any part of the coasting trade of the British territories.*" The legal and natural import of these words, is, *By virtue of this article, no right shall be claimed to the coasting trade of the British territories in India.* The words are intended to prevent a right by implication; which the generality of the terms, expressing our authority to trade there, might be construed to include. It certainly takes away no right drawn from other causes.—If a right to the coasting trade of *India* can be founded on other principles, or derived from other sources; this article certainly does not infringe that right: For the words are, *that the permission granted by this article, is not to extend, &c. &c.* We are surely then in possession of all the rights we were entitled to without the treaty.

Great-Britain, unless the Treaty is ratified, may restrict us from the coasting trade of her territories in India, and also from all trade there, even that of direct importation and exportation. If the Treaty is ratified, she will possess, notwithstanding that, the right she had before, and no greater, to prohibit us from that coasting trade; but she will not possess a right to refuse us the direct trade of importation and exportation from her East-India settlements. Before the Treaty is ratified, she may permit to our vessels the coasting trade—after it is ratified, she may permit the same.

By our Treaty with the *United Netherlands*, we recognized in express terms their colonial rights in the East and West-Indies. No

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body ever doubted they were not free to permit and we to exercise the right of trading to their colonies, and accordingly they have permitted to us, and we have enjoyed a very lucrative, though restricted trade to some of them, especially to *Surrinam* and *Demarara*.

The 8th reason offered by the town, against ratifying the Treaty is, "because in every stipulation respecting our intercourse with the colonial possessions of Great-Britain, the whole Commerce of the United States, in such intercourse, were colonized in return."

The writer of these remarks is at a loss to comprehend the precise meaning of the town in this reason. Does it mean that if we are permitted to trade with the colonies of *Great-Britain*, we can trade with those colonies only, or that we cannot export the articles we obtain there, from the United States to any other country.

Some writers have surrendered the whole commerce of their colonies, to an exclusive company ; others, without establishing an exclusive company, have confined the whole commerce of their colonies, to a particular part of the mother country—whence no ship was allowed to sail, but either in a fleet, and at a particular season ; or if single, in consequence of a license. Other nations leave the trade of their colonies free to all their subjects who may carry it on from all the different parts of the mother country, and who have occasion for no other license than the common dispatches of the Custom-house.

This is an account of the conduct of parent countries to their colonies, by the celebrated ADAM SMITH, in his treatise on the wealth of nations. ANDERSON, in his origin of commerce, speaking on the same subject, says, "*By every principle of justice, of the law of nations, and the customs of the other powers of Europe, who had settlements and distant dependencies, the mother country had an exclusive right to trade with, and to forbid all others from having any intercourse with them. Such an exclusive right cannot be denied by the very essence of colonization.*"

The above quotations are made for the purpose of obtaining a clear idea of the rights of nations, having colonies, and the obligations

tions and restrictions of such colonies—that by examining the state of our commerce under the treaty, we may conclude whether conformable to any just idea affixed to the terms *colonizing commerce*, it can be truly said, “*that the whole commerce of the United States, in such intercourse, is colonized in return.*” By *colonizing commerce*, must then probably be understood, *restricting commerce to a particular country, and particular people.*

The 3d and 13th articles of the treaty appear to be the only ones that respect our trade to the British colonies. By the 3d, we may trade freely by land in their colonies, we may carry there all sorts of goods, and bring back any thing in return. We are still free to procure the like articles from any other part of the world—and what we bring from those colonies, we may export wherever we please. Here is no restriction as to the articles to be imported into their colonies, or exported from them by us, nor as to the place to which we may export the articles so brought from them.

The colonists may come into the United States, in the same manner, and for the same purposes as we enter their territories; but there is no restriction, that we will sell only to them; or which gives to them any exclusive privileges; the same rights granted to them by treaty, we are free to grant to all the world.

The 13th article gives us a right to trade to the *East-Indies*, but contains no contract, that we will not buy elsewhere, the like articles that we procure from their settlements—neither does it say, that they shall have the exclusive privilege of trading with us—and the merchandize brought into the United States, from those settlements are as free to be exported to any part of the world, as though that article did not exist—There does not appear any thing like that sort of restriction on us, or exclusive right to them that can justify the terms, *colonizing the whole commerce of the United States in such intercourse, in return.*

The 9th reason given by the town, is, “*because the clause by which the British government reserves to itself the right of imposing on American vessels, entering British ports in Europe, a duty which shall countervail the difference of the duty payable on the importation*
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of European and Asiatic Goods into the United States, in British or American bottoms, places it in the power of that government, to enable British subjects to become the importers of Asiatic and European Goods, into the United States to the exclusion of our own citizens."

It is really difficult to comprehend how the reservation here mentioned, can be attended with the consequences suggested by the town.

If our vessels enter their ports on equal terms as we permit their vessels to enter ours, it is hard to conceive that we should be losers, we make a rule, which the Treaty supposes more against them, than the rule by which they affects our vessels. It is not probable that a nation of equal power, would consent to terms manifestly unequal, neither is it reconcileable with the common principles of equality and justice, for a nation to object to that part of a bargain, which reserves equal rights. At any rate, it may be fairly stated, that it is no objection to the Treaty, for it gives *Great-Britain* no new powers on this subject. She possesses a right of countervailing the difference mentioned, without any aid of the Treaty—and may exercise it whenever she pleases. By the Treaty she obligates herself to impose no higher duties on our vessels, than she does on those of all other nations.

The 10th reason is "*because although the terms of said Treaty appear to be reciprocal in many instances, yet from the local situation and circumstances of the United States, and the pacific system of policy they have adopted, that reciprocity is merely nominal and delusive.*"

The town leaves the world to conjecture what are the consequences flowing from the local situation and circumstances of the *United States*, and the pacific system they have adopted, that renders the reciprocity purported by the terms of said Treaty, to be merely nominal and delusive. Perhaps the President may see them from the assertion of the town, but surely it was due from the town, to the people of the United States, to point out the delusion which had been overlooked by the minister and government of the United States. Not being able to detect this delusion without further light, the writer must pass over this reason, with one request to his readers,

readers, that they would not assent to this assertion, without examining the Treaty for themselves, and at least desiring the committee or selectmen of *Boston*, to expose the fraud before they pass censure on their whole government, for being deluded blockheads, or something worse.

The first part of the 11th reason is; "*because it prevents the United States from imposing any further restrictions on British trade alone.*"

If it were not the town of *Boston*, so respectable for wisdom and good sense; that offered this reason, one would hardly suspect that the reason originated in any thing, but a disposition to prevent all pacific arrangements with that nation. For no one will believe that Britain, or any other nation, who is not an humble and vanquished suppliant, would ever consent to make a treaty, by which she should place us on the same terms, as the most favoured nations; and we reserve to ourselves a right to treat her on terms less favourable than we do others. In our treaties with France, the United Netherlands, Sweden, and Prussia, we have reciprocally agreed to place each other on such terms. It is not wonderful that Mr. JAY could not induce the British nation, to bind *themselves* to treat us, as well as they do others, and leave us at liberty to treat them worse than we do others, when they gave us privileges in Europe, equal to what we received from other powers, with whom we had treaties, and some very important ones, not received from them; such as a trade with the *East-India* settlements, and their colonies on the *American* continent. The 6th and 9th reason, and this part of the 11th, may possibly serve as a comment on the 10th.

The Federalist.—No. IV.

As published in the Centinel, Aug. 1, 1795.

THE OBJECTIONS TO THE TREATY REFUTED.

MR. RUSSELL,

THE other part of the 11th reason is more serious, and is "*because it is stipulated that neither the debts due from individuals*

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of one nation, to individuals of the other, nor shares, nor monies which they have in the public funds, or in any public or private banks, shall ever in any event of war or national differences, be sequestered or confiscated. It is far from being impossible that the exercise of this right may in the opinion of the national legislature, contribute to preserve the peace of our country, and protect the rights and property of the citizens from violation—we therefore esteem it highly impolitic that the public faith should be pledged that it shall never be exercised.

It will not be denied after some little reflection, by the inhabitants of Boston, that credit is of the last importance to the people of the United States. It is that which nurtured our infancy, which now gives spring and vigor to all our exertions, public and private. Its invigorating effects have been evidenced in the history of the public, and of individuals, in such strong, and recent colours, as to leave no doubt that we are indebted to that, for our rapid advance to wealth and importance. Let the town of *Boston* be contemplated with its great and thriving commerce. Is it not mutual confidence, is it not credit that supports the greatest part? Consider the wealth that is flowing in upon us from every country, confided to the honor of our merchants, and the justice of our laws—Weaken this confidence, wound credit but in the smallest degree, and you will see a thousand hands, which now labor for their own emolument, and the public prosperity, palsied in an instant.

There is scarce an individual who would not revolt with horror at the suggestion, that, because his nation was at war with the nation of his creditor, he should refuse to pay what was justly due. It is grown into a maxim, the truth of which is instantly felt, and assented to by every man of probity, that so far as respects himself, no national differences ought to weaken the obligations he is under to an individual.

The writer of these remarks firmly believes, that there is not a citizen of *Boston* who would declare, he considered himself discharged from the debt due by him, because there was a war between his own nation, and that of his creditor.

Foreign credit is the parent of domestic credit. There is no man who will view the extent, and importance of the former, but will be convinced that an injury to that will annihilate the latter, and with it all the domestic labor, and industry originating from and supported by it.

Do the inhabitants suppose that the government would attain any thing by sequestering or confiscating the debts of individuals? Let them recur to their own experience of what took place the last war, when individuals were required to pay into the public treasury what was due to their absent creditors, and they will be convinced, that instances of compliance were so rare, as to leave no doubt that few were the men who had honestly enough to pay any one, but preferred at great hazards, to pay their creditors.

With respect to money in the public funds, the practice of nations and the authority of the most eminent writers on public law, has long since condemned the practice of sequestering or confiscating them—and it is laid down as the acknowledged law among all the modern nations, that “*a state at war does not so much as touch the sums which it owes to the enemy—Every where, in case of a war, funds credited to the public are exempt from confiscation and seizure.*” The policy of a conduct, in the United States, less scrupulous in regard to national faith and honor, may justly be questioned. The baneful effects of war on the morals of a people, are always lamented as the greatest calamity that awaits that dreadful pestilence. Can there be any thing more destructive of that righteousness which exalteth a nation, than the example set by a government of converting the confidence placed in it by an unsuspecting individual, into a trap to deprive him of his property! The principle adopted at the fountain head, would soon spread through all the branches, and involve in deeper distress the unfortunate victims of war, than all the losses of quiet and property. War in its mildest form is to be deprecated as the greatest evil. War thus commenced, would be destructive of private confidence, and leave us the slaves of vice and immorality, without character and without credit. The reason states, that it is
far

far from being impossible that the exercise of this right may in the opinion of the national legislature contribute to preserve the peace of our country, and protect the rights and property of the citizens from violation.

Few men who are actuated by a pure love for their country, would wish to derive its safety from a conviction in the world, that it has abandoned those principles of honesty, and regard to public and private faith, which are commonly practised among nations.

But supposing there are such, let them remember that our own citizens have property in other countries—that the consequence of depriving foreigners of the confidence now entertained in our laws and government, if they choose to risque their property in America, will be a payment on our part for every risque they run—that means will not be wanting by which their credits may be secreted from public grasp. Let us go further, and grant that suspicions of war with this country could not have guarded men, thus advised of our principles, from being ensnared—that we were so sudden in commencing hostilities, as to afford no chance of escape; and to give to this disastrous and disgraceful warfare, all the effect that could possibly flow from it—is it probable such a measure would prevent war, would protect the rights and property of our citizens from violation? Would not the nation thus injured immediately make reprisals, long before we could build ships of war to support this seizure, or call home our own defenceless property. Let it be remembered in contemplating this subject, that the nations of *Europe* have large fleets; that we are without any; that our vessels sail unguarded, and unarmed; every moment liable to be taken, while theirs are in many instances protected with military force.

Such a principle once adopted, temptations to war would be multiplied to a nation whose interest is concerned in the cultivation of peace. War must be carried on by credit, either borrowing at home or abroad. The current revenues of no country are sufficient to meet the expences of war. In proportion to our credit, or want of it, must we pay for the means of fighting our enemy. There can be no doubt but a war undertaken with such an opposition to the received

ceived maxims of public faith, would be attended with difficulties and expences in the procuring of money, that would infinitely outweigh any amount of property thus sequestered or confiscated. As little doubt can there be that at the making of peace we should be willing to contract for the payment of property thus detained.

It may be fairly inferred, that no such right as the town contemplates, exists, according to the law of nations—that if such right did exist, it could in no case be expedient to exercise it. But that the insertion of such an article in a treaty, should be an objection to its ratification, speaks a language, which, it is sincerely hoped, the town, on more mature reflection, would completely discard.

The reverse of the position is more true, viz. That a conviction on the mind of all foreigners that the United States would in no instance touch the credits or property of aliens, confided either to their private citizens or the public faith, would contribute to preserve the peace of our country, and protect the rights and properties of the citizens from violation. The more and absolutely certain this was made to foreigners, with the more confidence would they place their monies and other property in our country. Beside the beneficial effects derived from this credit; in case of any national difference or misunderstanding, there would be a large and influential part of the foreign community deeply interested in preserving the peace of *America*; in protecting from violation the rights and property of our citizens, and obtaining from their own government, without war, a redress of our wrongs.

In addition to what has been before said on debts, property, and effects of individuals, due from our own citizens, or deposited in our country; it ought to be further remarked, that all our treaties secure on each side perfect safety. All the modern treaties among the European Powers do the same. *Tunis, Tripoli, and Algiers*, have not failed to make such contract in their treaties.

The 12th reason stated by the town, is “*because it concedes a right to the British government, to search and detain our vessels in time of war, under frivolous and vexatious pretences.*” Really no article conceding

conceding any right to the British government, to search and detain vessels, under any pretext, can be found.

All nations at war have a right to stop neutral vessels, and examine their papers, the nature of the property, to whom it belongs, and its destination. *Great-Britain* has this right, and exercises it in common with the other belligerent powers toward neutrals.

The 17th and 19th contain stipulations that may lessen the injury to neutrals, or secure compensation when committed, but not one word conceding any rights. So far as these articles respect those points, they are certainly an acquisition to us, considering Britain is now at war, and we at peace.

The 13th reason of the town, is, "*because it agrees that ship timber, tar, hemp, sails, and copper shall be considered contraband in war, which articles are expressly stipulated to be free by the treaties already subsisting between the United States and all other nations with whom they are in compact.*"

The weight of the objection here, seems to be in an implication that this may offend against treaties made with other nations. If the reader will cast his eye over the 25th article, he will see the following clause, viz.—"*Nothing in this treaty contained shall however be construed to operate contrary to former existing public treaties, with other sovereigns or states.*" This certainly secures the treaty from any charge of repugnancy with other treaties. And a moment's consideration of the advantages to be derived from the transportation of such articles, will shew that recognizing them as contraband, cannot be of any importance; surely not of sufficient consequence to cause the interference of the town with the constituted authorities of government. It should be remarked also, that the other treaties were mere contracts between us, and other nations, declaring what by those parties should be deemed contraband, in case one was at war, and the other at peace. The nations were respectively free to treat with others, and make a more extended, or more limited list of contrabands. In our other treaties, many articles, which by the law of nations are contraband, are excepted. By the

the law of nations, all naval stores are contraband.—*Great-Britain* without any aid from treaty, is authorized to stop such articles going to their enemy.

The 14th reason is, “ *because it surrenders all or most of the benefits of a commercial nature which we had a right to expect from our neutrality.*”

This is a broad and vague charge, which at least ought to be supported, by stating what we had surrendered, and what we had a right to expect. No surrender of benefits of a commercial nature can be seen in the treaty. It states what shall be the mutual rights, and that such shall be respected ; some are granted which we are certainly not entitled to without the treaty.

The 15th reason is, “ *because it precludes the hope of receiving any advantage from the modern law of nations, referred to in the President's proclamation of neutrality, adopted by most of the nations of Europe, in the last war, and to which we then acceded, and have secured in our treaties with all other nations.*”

It is probable the town intends here, that we have precluded ourselves from the hope of receiving advantage by a principle adopted by the armed neutrality the last war, that of carrying enemy's goods in neutral ships, free from capture.

There is no question but, by the law of nations, enemy's goods are liable to confiscation, though found in the ship of a friend. During the last war, certain powers of Europe stipulated to adopt a different principle, viz. That the ship of a friend should render free the goods of an enemy ; and that the ship of an enemy should taint and render liable to confiscation the goods of a friend.

Great-Britain, though opposed by *America*, and all the important powers of Europe, refused to accede to this alteration. Our own government has recognized the law of nations in this particular, as expounded by *Great-Britain*, and has declared that the opposite principle must depend on treaties, which treaties depend on the will of other nations, as well as our own, and we can only obtain them, when they shall be ready to concur. It is also said, that the north-

the powers of Europe have ceased to contend for this principle of the armed neutrality, as it was called. Thus much is certain, that *Russia*, who was the most potent of the league is now in close alliance with *Britain*, and of course would not promote the system she adopted the last war.

We have acceded to new rights ; we have not surrendered any principles advantageous to ourselves. The law stands precisely as it did before the treaty ; and it is not probable that the United States had any boon to offer which could induce *Britain* to invert the rule, as now acknowledged by nations. When it is considered that she is at war, and we at peace ; and that she appears to found her greatest hope of success, against her enemies, on her naval strength, it should also be remembered, that though *France* expressly stipulated in her treaty with the United States, that the goods of her enemies, on board our vessels should be free, yet in many instances she has chosen to swerve from this stipulation and capture, and confiscate the property of her enemy on board our ships.

The words of the reason, that the treaty *precludes the hope of receiving any advantage, &c.* (if the principle before mentioned is what the town alludes to) extend further than is warranted by the treaty ; for in that instrument there is the following stipulation—*"The said parties will also renew their discussion, and endeavour to agree whether in any, and in what cases neutral vessels shall protect enemy's property."* It can hardly be said that a treaty *precludes all hope* of a benefit, when the parties have expressly contracted to renew a discussion thereon, and endeavour to agree in what cases it shall be made.

The 16th reason is, *"because it not only surrenders the right of carrying the property of any nation at war with Great-Britain, in our vessels freely, but abandons all pretensions even to freight."*

It has been shewn, in the remarks on the 15th reason, that we have no right, by the law of nations, to carry the property of a nation at war with *Great-Britain*, free from seizure. If therefore, the treaty expressly recognizes the principle that enemy's property

is liable to confiscation though on board the vessel of a friend; it does no more than the government has done before. It surrenders no right, for no right thus to protect enemies goods; exists between us and *Great-Britain*.

The reason further states, "*that the Treaty abandons all pretensions even to freight.*"

The writer of these remarks has looked with attention through the treaty to find the clause on which this assertion is made, he can really find none that will support it. "*Effects belonging to an enemy found on board a neutral ship, are seizable by the rights of war, but by the law of nature the master is to be paid his freight, and not to suffer by the seizure.*" There is nothing in the treaty to controvert this principle declared by *VATTEL*. It cannot be doubted, that in all cases, where prior to the ratification of the treaty, freight is payable for goods of an enemy, to *Britain*, found on board of an American vessel, the same will be equally payable when the treaty is ratified, if that event should take place. For there is nothing in the treaty that can imply a relinquishment of our rights by the law of nations, much less an abandonment of all pretensions to freight, in such cases. In the latter part of the 17th article of the treaty there is an express agreement to pay freight where by law it could not be demanded.

The 17th reason is, "*because it permits the British nation to convert provisions destined to other nations at war with them to their own use, on payment of what they deem a reasonable profit; a measure not only injurious to the interests of the American merchants, but which will prevent our citizens from carrying those supplies to other countries, which by the laws of nature and nations, we have a right to do without molestation.*"

It is presumed that the town in this reason refers to the 17th article of the treaty. An examination of that article will shew that the town has mistaken its import, and that instead of surrendering a right, it acquires one to which we are not entitled, unless the treaty is ratified. All writers on the law of nations, agree, that there

are

cases in which provisions are contraband ; though it would seem by the generality of the expressions of the town, in the last paragraph of this reason, that there is a right to carry supplies in all cases, without molestation. It can hardly be believed, that this was the meaning of the town ; yet if any should think thus, they may have the consolation to reflect, that there is nothing in this treaty that prevents an endeavour to support such a proposition—the words being “ *where, by the existing law of nations, they are contraband* ” Now if there is no case where by the law of nations they are contraband, then there is no right to seize them under that article.

The article in the treaty, states, “ *that whereas the difficulty of agreeing on the precise cases, in which alone, provisions and other articles, not generally contraband, may be regarded as such, renders it expedient to provide against the inconveniences and misunderstandings which might thence arise : It is further agreed, that whenever any such article so becoming contraband, according to the existing law of nations, shall for that reason be seized, the same shall not be confiscated, but the owners thereof shall be speedily and completely indemnified ; and the captors, or in their default the government under whose authority they act, shall pay the full value of all articles, with a reasonable mercantile profit thereon, together with the freight, and also the demurrage incident to such detention.* ” Hence it is clear, that the treaty does not give any new right to the British nation ; it does not permit the taking provisions, &c. in any case where she is not authorized to by the law of nations—it permits the taking them only where by the *existing law of nations, they are contraband*. Here is no cause of complaint—The other part of the article is a positive advantage to the nation at peace ; for it expressly contracts to pay for such provisions, where, by law, the nation seizing them would be under no obligation to pay, viz. in cases where by the existing law of nations they are contraband ; and in no other case are they seizable by treaty. The article goes further, it not only stipulates for payment, but for complete and speedy indemnification,

reasonable profits, freight and demurrage, and that the government shall pay, if the individual captors shall fail. Is it injurious to the interest of the American merchant, that, in cases where his property is, by the law of nations, justly forfeited, the treaty secures to him full and complete indemnification, payment with profit, freight and demurrage? Will our citizens be prevented from carrying supplies to other countries, because the hazards are lessened—because in every event they are sure of making a good voyage? Surely the answers will contradict the reason of the town.

The 16th reason given by the town, is, "*because it limits the power of Congress, delegated to them by the Constitution, to regulate our commerce with foreign nations, by prescribing conditions, and creating impediments to the exercise of that power.*"

The constitution, in the distribution of powers, as completely vests the powers delegated to the President and Senate, as it vests those it delegates to Congress. The President has power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties; when therefore he thus makes a treaty, it is as much an act of the whole people of the United States, as any law of Congress. Is he limited as to the kind of treaties he shall make? There is no limitation in the Constitution. But then it is said, "Congress has a right to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and as this treaty regulates commerce with a foreign nation, it limits the power of Congress"; and suppose it does, if it is a constitutional act, the limitation is as legal as though the Constitution had declared in express terms, that Congress should have a right to regulate commerce, where it was not otherwise regulated by treaty. Perhaps it may be said, that the constitution intended such treaties, as did not interfere with the powers delegated to Congress. The inference, from this construction, would be, that no commercial treaty could ever be made, and looking at the powers of Congress, it will be doubtful if any other treaty can be made, or if the United States can make any treaty—for Congress has no power to make a treaty—and if the President, who, with the advice and consent of the Senate, is alone authorized

authorized to make treaties, can make no treaty, which respects any of the powers vested in Congress, there is no man or body of men authorized to treat with foreign nations.

Treaties generally speaking, are mere treaties of peace, or treaties of commerce; Congress has power to make war, grant letters of marque and reprisal. If the President with consent of Senate, makes a treaty of Peace, according to the reasoning of the town, he limits the power of Congress, which has authority to make war, and in the treaty spoken of, there is a stipulation, that there shall be a firm and inviolable peace between the parties—It is equally objectionable on this ground, as on that of regulating commerce. If the United States should be at war with any nation, on such construction, they must remain eternally at war—Congress has declared war—has done an act which that body alone had a right to do; the President by making peace does not barely limit a power to act; but does that which is in direct violation of an act constitutionally done by Congress, and operates as an absolute repeal of their declaration of war. Such a construction of the Constitution is not to be admitted.

We ought never to admit a construction of any instrument, which leads to an absurdity, or to the destruction of any part; we ought to reconcile all parts thereof, if possible, so that every portion of it may take effect, and no word but what may operate in some shape or other. Let us endeavour to construe this instrument by these rules:—The President with the advice and consent of the Senate, makes a Treaty of Peace with a nation, with whom the United States are at war. He has done an act which he thought wise; the next or the same day, Congress receives such information, as in their opinion renders it expedient to declare war. This militates with what was done; but it by no means follows that either was wrong; or that the constitutional power of either was limited by their constitutional acts. Both have exercised that power which each had a right to exercise. The state of war was complete until the President made peace; and the state of peace, the true and legal state, until Congress declared war, which repealed the doings of the President.

In a treaty of commerce, it is contracted that duties shall be no higher than at present. Afterwards Congress chooses to impose higher duties, and actually does impose higher than is stipulated in the Treaty. The Treaty is contravened, and the nation must abide the good or evil consequences that flow from the measure, in like manner as it would, if Congress should choose to declare war, and annul an article which declares there shall be a perpetual peace, as is the case in some treaties. If this construction is right, there can be no limitation even in terms of the power of Congress, especially when it is recollected, that a bare majority of both houses, with the President, is sufficient to pass a law, while two thirds of the Senate is necessary to make a treaty. But suppose any doubt this construction, and in the case of an imposition of higher duties than is stipulated by the treaty, the party, considering himself injured by the law, refuses to pay; a suit is commenced, and the cause in the last instance is decided by the Supreme Judicial Court, who are authorized to determine whether such an act be, or not, conformable to the Constitution. If the act of Congress is determined to be unconstitutional; the treaty could not be called a limitation of the power vested in them by the constitution; since it appears that the constitution did not vest in Congress a power to make such act. Therefore, in no case, can the Treaty be called a "*limitation of the power of Congress, delegated to them by the Constitution.*"

The foregoing has been attempted to obviate the objection of the town as stated, and to shew that there can, neither in fact nor terms, be any limitation to the powers vested in Congress.—In the opinion of this writer, there is a short, but equally satisfactory answer to those who fear a real interference in the departments of government, from the wording of the Constitution.—The people of the United States were well aware, that there were two modes of regulating commerce—one by Treaty, where nations are disposed to treat on terms beneficial to each other.—The other, where nations are unwilling thus to treat, by laws constitutionally made.—Under this impression they framed their Constitution.—If nations are unwilling to treat with the United States on the rights of Commerce,

or

or we are unwilling to treat with them, Congress is the constitutional body to make laws, regulating the commerce between them and us—If nations are willing to treat on their and our commercial relations—the Executive is the organ with whom they are to negotiate ; and who, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, is authorized to regulate Commerce between the United States and such nations.

The 19th reason, is “ *because it exposes the United States and their Commerce, to similar embarrassments, from other commercial nations, all of whom will probably regulate our Commerce by this partial standard.*”

It may be answered, that we are under no obligation to make other treaties, because we have made this, and if in the course of two years from a cessation of the war in which *Great-Britain* is now engaged, it should appear to be injurious to us, we can drop all its load of commercial burthens, and embarrassments—It might have been well in the town to have stated the peculiar embarrassments the Treaty imposes upon us, and which are avoided by its destruction. It surrenders no rights we now enjoy, but grants some we had not before, and renders absolute what was before precarious. Our other treaties admit us to trade in *Europe*, as the most favoured nations. The treaty with *Great-Britain* does the same. It also admits us into their *East-India* settlements, and their colonies on the continent of *North-America*, to trade with them on terms highly favourable to our commerce. No other nation has granted to us like advantages. The treaty with *France* admits us into certain free ports in the *West-Indies*, under regulations not mentioned in the treaty, but varying according to the will of the ruling power.

The last reason is, “ *because in the opinion of the inhabitants of the town, the nature and extent of the exports of the United States are such, that in all their stipulations with foreign nations, they have it in their power to secure a perfect reciprocity of intercourse, not only with their home dominions, but with all their colonial dependencies.*”

It

It is not wonderful, that the town of *Boston* should violently oppose the Treaty, if such be their opinion ; but then they should equally wish for the annulling of all the existing treaties—Restrictions and regulations should be imposed on all foreign commerce, till those treaties are destroyed, or such trade can be obtained. But as the town has not chosen to give their reasons for this opinion, it is not impossible the President may trust to the experience of the United States, from the Treaties already made, and his own knowledge of the temper of foreign powers on this subject, rather than to the opinion of the town of *Boston*, however respectable.

The

The Constitutionalist——No. I,

As published in the Chronicle, July 27, 1795.

Messrs. ADAMS and LARKIN,

THE FEDERALIST, No. I, in the *Centinel* of Wednesday last, has prefixed to his remarks this preamble : “ Objections to the Treaty refuted,” as if he felt confident that fifteen hundred of the inhabitants of this town, had totally misconstrued this instrument, and that his *pen alone*, like a *sun beam*, was to dart light upon their minds.

I will attempt to follow this writer through his *luminous* tract of detail and argument, and to ascertain how far he has executed his engagement to the public.

He premises thus : “ The Constitution of the United States empowers the President, by, and with the advice and consent of two thirds of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present, concur,” and then adds, “ in pursuance of a power *thus* vested, the Senate of the United States did consent to, and advise the President of the United States to ratify the Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation, between his Britannic Majesty and the United States of America, concluded at London, the 19th Nov. 1794, under a certain condition relative to the 12th art.

That the Constitution does vest a power in the President, in conjunction with the Senate, to make treaties of a certain extent, I will not deny, however dangerous it may be that the smallest branch of the Legislature, should *thus* possess it in any case, independent of the other branch ; yet I will contend, that the constitution does not empower the President, in conjunction with the Senate, to make a treaty similar to that now under consideration.

The same constitution in which the Federalist traces this power,
also

also provides in art. 1, sect. 7, "that all bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives." In sect. 8, immediately following, it also provides, "that Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States," and to "regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes."

By the above recited clauses it is clear, that certain powers are sacredly lodged in the whole Congress; and I will examine whether the President, with the Senate, do not attempt to exercise them by the ratification of the treaty.

The 6th art. of that instrument stipulates for the payment of the British debts, due from merchants of the United States in 1783; to execute which stipulation it will be indispensably necessary to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, or excises.

The 3d and 13th articles, regulate the commerce of the United States with Great-Britain, and in a great measure, their traffic with the Indian tribes.

Hence it appears that the Senate did not consent to and advise the President to the ratification of the Treaty, as the *Federalist* states, in pursuance of a power vested in them, but in extension of a power which the constitution meant to limit and restrict in their possession.

The exercise of this power, thus extended, may lead to consequences the most dangerous.

The Senate thereby assumes powers constitutionally vested in the House of Representatives, becomes an uncontrollable aristocratic body, like the imperious Senate of *Venice*, and annihilates that glorious equilibrium between the two branches, intended and calculated for the preservation of our government.

I shall not follow the *Federalist* through all his nice calculations of time from the first publication of an authentic copy of the treaty in *Philadelphia*, by means of Mr. Mason, to its publication in

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this town. I *here* only remark, that the man who first ventured to drag from its dark and secret cavern this *political monster*, and to present it in all its native deformities to public view, although calumniated by the *disguised enemy*, will forever be applauded by the *open friends* of his country.

The inhabitants of this town through the medium of the several papers had read nearly a *counterpart* in substance of the treaty, before the arrival of the express from *Philadelphia*, with Mr. MASON's copy of it—and the preparatory steps to the town-meeting were totally unconnected with this event, as several respectable citizens had some days before drawn a petition for the purpose. This town, from the time of the stamp-act to this period, has always had wisdom to *discern when*, and firmness to decide *how* to act upon its important interior concerns, independent of any external influence; and the insinuations of some, that the express from *Philadelphia* gave rise to or accelerated its late proceedings are as scandalous as they are false.

As the *Federalist* has been incorrect in his detail of the occurrences at the meeting, I will offer this statement to the public, and leave it with them to decide, whether the town upon *this* occasion, is chargeable with any deviation from its usual propriety and deliberation of conduct.

Pursuant to notification on the 10th inst. fifteen hundred inhabitants assembled at *Faneuil-Hall*, for the purpose of expressing their opinions upon the Treaty. Prior to any proceedings, it was proposed to the Moderator to read the Treaty, but objections in various quarters were made, that the inhabitants had had several days for the investigation of the subject—that it was too important not to have engaged their attention, and that the emergency of the moment was too great to justify the loss of time in reading an instrument which every one had read. General remarks were then made upon the most exceptionable articles, and any person challenged to reply to them—They then unanimously voted their disapprobation

of the treaty, and chose a Committee of fifteen men, of integrity and abilities, to report "in writing the reasons which led to their disapprobation of that instrument."

From the 10th to the 13th, the inhabitants had themselves further opportunity for the consideration of the subject, and the committee were indefatigable in their investigation of it, and after several meetings and discussions of it in articles, unanimously agreed in their resolutions. On Monday at the adjournment, the inhabitants again assembled, where fifteen hundred heard the report of the committee, read first in gross, and then in articles, and unanimously accepted the same.

I will not contend with the *Federalist* about the time the Senate were employed in their discussion of the treaty, or their superior advantages over the town for *secret cabinet information* upon the subject, nor "the pure morals, sound understanding, and industrious and steady attention to their duties," of the majority who were in favor of its ratification.

Whatever may have been their services in times past, even "in times the most critical and dangerous," if true patriots, those very services have been their reward; but even if their country is now their debtor, the consideration will not check an inquiry into the present political measure. "Men who love their country, (says he) will endeavour to support its government," and "men who love their country" will also endeavor to repel from it any impending injuries, in whatever form or under whatever sanction they may appear.

Having thus travelled through the *mazy* introduction of the *Federalist*, I now meet him upon the real subject of controversy, "his examination of the solidity of the reasons of the town in proof of their vote:" viz.

"That the Treaty, if ratified, will be highly injurious to the commercial interests of the United States, derogatory to their national honor, and may be dangerous to the peace and happiness of their citizens."

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The *Federalist* has directed his first remark to the introductory objection of the Committee, which stands thus, "*Because that compact professes, to have no reference to the merits of the complaints and pretensions of the contracting parties, but in reality the complaints and pretensions of Great-Britain are fully provided for, while a part only of those of the United States have been brought into consideration.*"

To refute this objection he opposes to it the preamble of the Treaty, which stands thus, "*the parties being desirous, by a Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation, to terminate their differences, in such a manner, as without reference to the merits of their respective complaints and pretensions, may be the best calculated to produce mutual satisfaction and good understanding.*"

I cheerfully agree with the *Federalist* that the public shall decide the difference in the import of the above recited objection of the Committee and the preamble to the Treaty.

The Committee could not know what the two Ministers, while in the act of forming the Treaty, brought into consideration, and therefore could not have intended in the objection, the assertion with which the *Federalist* charges them—but the Committee could see what was actually brought into consideration in the Treaty itself, and therefore did make the assertion which the words in the objection import; for the truth of which assertion, "that the complaints and pretensions of Great-Britain are fully provided for, while a part only of those of the United States have been brought into consideration, the Treaty itself furnishes the following facts.

On the part of Great-Britain, the complaint and pretensions brought into consideration and provided for, are,

The speedy payment of her debts due from American Merchants, in 1783.

The right of her subjects, after the surrender of the Posts, to remain within the territory, and hold their estates in the same manner as citizens of the United States.

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The relinquishment by the United States of a right, inherent in all nations, in case of war or any national emergency, to confiscate her debts.

Restitution agreeably to the letter of Mr. JEFFERSON, for captures of her vessels by the French within the limits and jurisdiction of the United States.

The right of ingress and egress through the territorial dominions of the United States, to the highest ports of entry.

The assent of the United States to risk upon the cast of a die, millions of acres of territory, within the St. Croix, clearly and indisputably their property.

On the part of the United States, the complaints and pretensions brought into consideration and provided for, are.—

The surrender of the Western Posts, the 1st of June, 1796.

An ostensible restitution for the spoils of the *British* vessels upon the Commerce of their citizens in the course of the present war.

I now ask the *Federalist* to point to any other pretension and complaint on the part of the United States, in addition to the two already mentioned, which have been brought into consideration in the Treaty, although many are known to exist, and which ought to have been considered in order to reciprocate for those provided for in favour of *Great-Britain*. If none can be found, the Committee are certainly chargeable with no impropriety in that resolution.

The *Federalist* proceeds to attack the 2d objection in the report of the Committee, which stands thus, "*Because in the stipulation which surrenders our Posts on the Western Frontier, no provision is made to indemnify the United States for the commercial and other losses they have sustained, and the heavy expences to which they have been subjected, in consequence of being kept out of possession twelve years, in direct violation of the Treaty of Peace.*"

In this reason, (says the *Federalist*,) the town must intend that no Treaty should be acceded to unless the *British* nation would first agree

agree to indemnify the United States for all losses that arose from our not being in possession of the Posts the last 12 years.

Whence he draws this inference I cannot conceive, because the town consider *this*, with various other *reasons*, the ground why the Treaty should not be acceded to; can he by any rule of logic infer that the town must intend that *this* reason *alone* is the *fine qua non*. But that this reason in itself is an important objection is not difficult to demonstrate. The stipulation for the surrender of the Western Posts is to be considered in connection with the counter-stipulation for the payment of *British* debts, in which connection it has ever been considered by the two nations. Without *here* determining which nation was the first aggressor in violating the Treaty of 1783, it is necessary *only* to examine the respective claims of the two nations.

Britain on her part has claimed her debts; by the Treaty, the United States, without any consideration of the equitable demand against them, stipulate to pay the debts, with the interest which is equivalent to the damage for the non-payment of them. The United States on their part claim the Posts; Britain by the Treaty, stipulates to surrender them 1st of June, 1796, but without any damage for the detention of them.

Where then is *that reciprocal justice* in those two stipulations, the basis of all Treaties between sovereign nations?

But, says the *Federalist*, "in the various wars that have taken place for the wrongful detention of territories, few if any are the instances, that the vanquished nation paid for the injuries and losses that have arisen from such detention."

No war has taken place for the wrongful detention of the Posts, in which the victors would have been bound by that magnanimous conduct which has generally characterized the victorious nation, to receive the territories without the damage for the detention of them; but the two nations at peace with each other, meet together to do mutual justice, and if the Posts were the property of the United States,

States, and Britain on her part has received her full demand by the non-payment of which she justified her detention of them; most certainly the United States on their part have a right to ask in addition to the surrender of them, the damage they have sustained by the detention of them.

I think I have thus shewn that the second objection is not refuted by the *Federalist*, and the public are to judge whether the omission of many of the complaints and pretensions of the United States in the Treaty, is not in exact correspondence with the uniform language of Great-Britain, and does not support the declaration of her Minister in his communications with the American Minister, that the terms upon which, and upon which alone, Britain would treat with the United States, was an entire reliance on their part, on her magnanimity.

The Constitutionalist—No. II,

As published in the Chronicle, July 30. 1795.

Messrs. ADAMS and LARKIN,

I PROCEED in this number, to examine the strictures of the *FEDERALIST* upon several other reasons in the report of the committee.

The 7th art. of the Treaty of 1783, is in these words, "His Britannic Majesty shall with all convenient speed, and without causing any destruction, or carrying away any negroes, or other property of the American inhabitants, withdraw all his armies, &c. &c.

Upon which particular and absolute provision, the committee predicated the 3d reason in the report, "because no indemnification is to be made to the citizens of the United States, for property taken from them at the close of the war, the restitution of which is provided for by the same Treaty."

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It is presumable from the insertion of this provision in the Treaty relative to negroes, that the American Minister foresaw the danger to which *that* species of property would be exposed at the embarkation of the British armies, and considered it of sufficient importance for his *particular* attention. The existence of this Treaty was communicated to the Generals of those armies in the month of April in *that* year, from which moment *this*, with every other species of the property of the American inhabitants, ought to have been held by them as sacred; yet in the very next succeeding month it is well known, that a large number of negroes did embark for the British provinces. Gen. WASHINGTON, in his letter to Sir Guy CARLETON, complains of it, as a violation of this article in the treaty; and the answer of CARLETON implies both an acknowledgment of the fact, and from his precautions in ascertaining their number and value, an indirect opinion at least, which he himself had formed, that restitution would be made for them. At the time of the evacuation of the British army, it is known, from the inspection of American Commissioners, that 3000 negroes embarked with it. This repeated violation of the Treaty, Mr. JEFFERSON has noticed in very pointed language; but the FEDERALIST differs in opinion both from WASHINGTON and JEFFERSON; and as a British expositor of that article, denies such violation of it on the part of Britain.

Apprehensive that this construction might not be satisfactory and conclusive, the FEDERALIST next attempts to diminish the evil to a mere atom. The whole number of negroes to which the provision refers, may or may not fall short of the number as above stated; but will any man believe, with the Federalist, that free negroes would in any considerable number, have abandoned this land of freedom, and attached themselves to the British armies; or that negroes who had masters would have gone off with them, when they could have remained here in freedom; or that the armies themselves would have carried off a mere incumbrance, negroes of extreme old age, the youngest infants, the sick and the worthless—conduct like this would scarcely comport with the usual nice discriminations of the British nation,

nation, between things of value and of no value, and such as would be for and against its interest.

If then the number stands undiminished by the calculations of the *FEDERALIST*, it will be very easy to compute the loss; 3000 at the moderate sum of 200 dollars for each negro, will give 600,000 dollars; which sum with the interest added, in the same manner as by the treaty is to be added to the British debts, will make the gross sum at least 1500,000 dollars. This sum, independent of any other losses sustained by American citizens, would operate the discharge of a considerable part of the British debts, and the American minister can in no way justify the relinquishment of it. The public then will judge, whether it is presumable that the British nation would have refused the allowance of this demand, had the Minister brought it into consideration, and whether, in case of refusal, the Minister ought, or ought not to have urged it as an indispensable article in the treaty.

The 4th reason in the report is, Because the capture of vessels, and the property of the citizens of the United States, made under the authority of the government of Great-Britain, is a national concern, and claims arising from such captures ought not to have been submitted to the decision of their Admiralty Courts, as the United States are thereby precluded from having any voice in the final determination of such cases—and because the indemnification proposed to be made is to be sought by a process tedious and expensive, in which justice may be delayed to an unreasonable time; and eventually lost to many of the sufferers, from their inability to pursue it, and because this mode of indemnification leaves no proportion to the summary method adopted for satisfaction of British claims."

The *Federalist* divides *this reason* into two distinct charges, whereas the committee intended but one charge, and stated various reasons in support of that charge.

I shall not contend with him upon the usage of nations in certain cases, or the mode adopted by the Kings of England and Prussia,

fia, in their treaty of 1783, or the principles laid down by Mr. JEFFERSON, in his answer to the letter of Mr. HAMMOND; but it is clear that the cases in which *that* usage was considered applicable, were not similar to *this* under consideration. *Great-Britain* and the *United States* in the Treaty, state *counter* claims against each other. The former, debts due to her subjects in 1783, and restitution for captures by the French, of vessels of her subjects within the limits and jurisdiction of the United States; and the latter restitution for the capture of vessels and property of their citizens, by British vessels made under the authority of that Government.

British claimants are by the Treaty allowed to pursue *their* claims before a tribunal of Commissioners—a tribunal impartial, because composed of individuals from the respective governments: while the American claimants are obliged to pursue *their* claims in British Courts of Admiralty, composed of individuals from that Government alone. Whatever *therefore* may in other cases have been the usage of *Great-Britain*; when an equivalent was not given for a change of tribunal; in this case such equivalent being given by the United States, she ought to have agreed to a similar mode of determination.

The British nation having by the Treaty made herself a party to such American claims, the further objection of the Federalist cannot apply, that part of the captures were made by private individuals, whose right to a trial in their own country could not be taken from them. Nor can the other objection have force, that the British government has provided for the regular bringing forward of causes, which from *certain* circumstances of the claimants, had by strict law, lost their right to a trial in the British Courts of Admiralty; it being clear, that *certain circumstances* will not be considered upon fair construction to extend to the pecuniary inability of claimants thus to have pursued their causes; and it being as clear that Britain will not do, what she never yet has done, give a strained construction against her own subjects.

Every candid man therefore will believe that the fourth reason of the Committee has weight against the Treaty.

The 5th reason of the report, is, "because this compact admits British subjects to an equal participation with our own citizens, of the interior traffic of the United States with the Indians, through our whole territorial dominions, while the advantages ostensibly reciprocated to our citizens, are limited both in their nature and extent."

"It has been well understood, (says the *FEDERALIST*) by men unacquainted with the country occupied by Indians within the territory of the United States, and that which falls within the British dominions, that by far the greatest proportion of furs are collected within the British dominions." The premises for the sake of argument may be conceded, but very *different* conclusions follow, than those drawn by him. The British traders can *now* supply their stores on the waters adjoining the United States, through no other channel than the river *St. Lawrence*, which, by reason of ice, is passable only five or six months in the year; by this article in the Treaty, if ratified, they will be able to transport merchandize throughout our whole territory, at all times and seasons, without any obstruction, which territory is not a *mere wilderness*, but is settled quite to the margin of the Lakes. They will also be able, (however extraordinary the grant of this privilege may appear) to import their goods into any part of the United States, and from such *Atlantic* ports to transport the same throughout our whole territory, free of *all alien duty*, upon the same terms as our own citizens. The United States in return, are allowed to carry goods into the British settlements; but when it is considered that British traders have large capitals and connections established among the Indians, as well as in *England*, to send them supplies, and that American traders on the other hand, have small capitals, without such connections, it will be found, that our citizens will derive little if any benefit from the privilege. It is clear therefore, that by the 3d article in the Treaty, the United States surrender *much*, and gain *but little*, if *any thing* in return.

However "extensive our sea-coasts, and immense compared with *that of Great-Britain in America*," the contrary of *what* the *Fe-*

FEDERALIST states, will be readily seen, that *Asiatic* goods under the Treaty, cannot be afforded on better terms by American citizens, than the subjects of *Great-Britain*; for by the 15th article, "The British government reserves to itself the right of imposing on American vessels entering into the British ports in Europe, a tonnage duty equal to that which shall be payable by British vessels in the ports of *America*: And also such duty as may be adequate to countervail the difference of duty, now payable on the importation of European and Asiatic goods, imported into the United States, in British or in American vessels."

And it requires better evidence than the naked assertion of the FEDERALIST, to prove that American citizens will be able to import the goods that are consumed by the Indians, into the United States, upon better terms than British subjects can import the like merchandize into *Canada, New-Brunswick* and *Nova-Scotia*; it being well known, that the goods suitable for the trade of the *Indian* country, are principally British manufactures, with some India goods, American citizens cannot import the former into the United States upon as good terms, including the charge of impost, as British subjects can import them into their Provinces; and if the Treaty should be ratified, the restrictions which are evidently calculated by the 13th article, to embarrass the American trade to *India*, will enable them to import India goods into those Provinces, from the stores of the Company in *London*, upon equal terms, at least, with American citizens in the United States. It may here be said, that if British subjects can import goods into the Indian countries, upon cheaper terms by the communication of their settlements, than by the United States, that *Great-Britain* will derive no benefit from the privilege, the answer is obvious, they have secured a *privilege* which they can use at all seasons, and at such times as their former communication by their own territory, would be impassable by means of ice or any circumstance whatever.

In every view it appears, that although by the Treaty we are admitted into each others territory by the land board for the purposes of traffic, and that before the Treaty neither could enjoy that right;
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yet that it is not true, as the *FEDERALIST* asserts, that British subjects could enter our ports as freely before the Treaty, as they may in case of its ratification ; for they were before subject to an *alien duty*, which will be completely suspended by its ratification.

The *FEDERALIST* also affirms, that by a *surrender* of the Posts, the United States will gain *immensely* by the Fur Trade. It is difficult to conceive what the term *gain* can imply, when by the surrender, the United States receive nothing more than a *right* which has long been their own, but which *Great Britain* has *wrongfully* withheld from them for 12 years. But allowing, as the *FEDERALIST* states, that the traffic with the Indians is within the British territories, instead of gaining *immensely* by the Fur Trade, by the surrender of the Posts, the gain will be a mere pepper-corn, as the British nation has only to remove her Posts over the line of intersection between the two territories, by which means her settlers and trading houses will still remain an insurmountable barrier to the traffic of our citizens with the Indians, within the British territories.

The *FEDERALIST* in his comment upon the 6th reason of the report, states, that it cannot be derogatory to our national honor and independence, to be willing to meet the British nation on terms of equality : But do the United States meet *Great Britain* on terms of equality, when without any similar stipulation, on her part, by the 15th article, they stipulate not to oppose any new or additional tonnage duties on British vessels, nor to exercise the subsisting differences between the duties *now* payable on the importation of any articles in British or American vessels. If there is any stipulation similar to *this*, in the Treaties of the United States with *France*, the *United Netherlands*, *Sweden* or *Prussia*, I will thank the *FEDERALIST* to point out the particular articles which contain it.

Should the United States during the continuance of this article be under the necessity of encreasing the tonnage duty upon *foreign ships*, or to encrease the impost payable on merchandize imported in the same ; British vessels and merchandize imported in them, would

would be exempted from all such additional duty and impost. The United States cannot therefore exercise this right without the hazard of offending their allies and the other nations with whom they are in Treaty—And they are *thus* placed in this dangerous situation without even the shadow of reciprocity.

The Constitutionalist—No. III,

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Messrs. ADAMS and LARKIN,

THE 7th reason in the report of the Committee is, “Because the Commerce we have *hitherto* enjoyed in India, in common with other nations, is so restricted, that in future it will be of little or no substantial benefit to our citizens.”

The *Federalist* in his strictures upon this reason, remarks, that according to the right claimed by all nations having colonies, to which all other nations have acceded, we have no *positive right* to go to the colonies of the *British* crown, and unless *such right* is obtained by Treaty, Great Britain may prohibit our trading or even entering the ports of her colonial possessions without affording us any *just cause* of complaint.

In this enlightened country *few*, I believe, are so ignorant as not to know that Great Britain hath *such right*, and that she hath also a right to prohibit the importation of any articles of the growth, produce, or manufacture of the United States into the British ports in *Europe*, or to prohibit our citizens from exporting from *thence* any goods or merchandize; and that all other nations, having colonies possess the same right, unless they have stipulated the contrary by Treaty. It is unnecessary therefore to make any remarks on *that* part of his lengthly detail which relates to Treaties and arrears; and I will here only observe, that notwithstanding the arguments of my

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Lord Sheffield, which he so much admires, at the time he wrote upon the British trade, *neutral vessels* were allowed to enter the ports of the British settlements in India. Our pretensions to enter them could not *then* have been so extraordinary a step as his Lordship has suggested, and no *neutral* power, if the benefits Great Britain has derived from us were of weight, could have had *stronger pretensions*. Although the sentiments of this writer relative to the *West-Indies*, as the *Federalist* has stated, may have been much adopted by the British government, from these facts it seems, that his sentiments relative to the *East-Indies*, did not attract much attention.

I will *here* also observe, that there is a wide difference between a country extensive and situated as *India*, and that of a common colony; the inhabitants of the former being almost innumerable, governed generally by independent Princes, and unaccustomed to the operation of narrow colonial regulations; and the inhabitants of the latter being inconsiderable in number, circumscribed within narrow limits, and educated in a submission to such colonial regulations. Laws and institutions therefor proper and convenient for the regulation of a colony *thus* in the vicinity and under the immediate controul of its parent country, might be extremely improper and inconvenient for the regulation of the various, peculiar, and complicated interests of *India*. Hence may be inferred the circumstance, that all neutral nations have enjoyed a free intercourse with the settlements and factories of the British government in that country, and a presumption that they will continue to enjoy the privilege.

The *Federalist* further remarks, that if Great-Britain should refuse to admit our vessels into her *East-India* possessions it would be no just cause of complaint on the part of the United States. And that *France* and *Spain* opened the trade of some of their colonies during the last war to all neutral nations, and immediately on the return of peace confined that trade again to the parent country. He cannot however infer from this circumstance, that on the return of peace in *Europe*, Great-Britain will observe a similar conduct in her territories in *India*. For Great-Britain did not open to us her ports in
India,

India, from a necessity growing out of a state of war, it being a well known fact, that our vessels soon after peace made their first entrance into those ports, and from *that* to the *present* period have without interruption pursued the same intercourse.

The 13th article of the Treaty, to which this reason refers, among other things stipulates, "that the citizens of the United States may freely carry on a trade between the *British* territories in *India*, and the said United States in *all* articles of which the importation or exportation respectively to or from the said territories, shall not be entirely prohibited," "But it is expressly agreed, that the vessels of the United States shall not carry any of the articles exported by them from the said *British* territories, to *any* port or place, except to *some* port or place in *America*, where the same shall be *unladen*, &c." "It is also understood that the permission granted by this article, is not to extend to allow the vessels of the United States to carry on any part of the *Coasting Trade* of the said *British* territories." "Neither is this article to be construed to allow the citizens of the said States to settle or reside with the said territories, or to go into the interior parts thereof without the permission of the *British* Governor established there."

Upon this article the Federalist observes, "*is a trade thus limited, substantially beneficial?*"

In a comparison with the benefits hitherto enjoyed by our citizens in that trade, it is obvious that it will not be substantially beneficial. Taking it for granted with the Federalist, that the articles which have been exported from hence to the East-Indies have not generally paid a freight, and if in some instances something has been made, still on the other hand in many instances losses have been sustained. It appears by this article, that such measures are to be adopted as shall oblige our citizens *faithfully* to land whatever articles they may export from the *British* ports in *India*, at some port within the United States; to execute which stipulation, our citizens will be obliged to procure bonds, and being strangers *there*, and without factors, it is not probable that they will be able to procure such bonds at a less expence than five per cent. upon their invoices.

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By the same article, it also appears, that our citizens are not allowed to reside in those ports, or go into the interior parts of *India*, without the permission of the British Government. Hitherto they have been accustomed to go into the country, and to purchase their goods at the very loom of the manufacturer, it is probable that this restriction will add 20 per cent. more to the cost of their goods;

If the Treaty should be ratified under such circumstances of additional expence, may not our own citizens find it as much for their interest to purchase India goods at *Offend*, as to go to *India* for them; it being well known, they are usually sold cheaper there than here, in proof of which it need only be observed, that *India* goods are sometimes exported from thence into this country. To allow five months for a voyage from hence to *Offend*, and about fifteen months for a voyage from hence to *India*, and to calculate the difference in the expences of the two voyages, from the interest of money, premium of insurance, wages of the ship and seamen, and provisions, and the amount be added to the 25 per cent. as before stated, it will at once appear, that in *future*, our commerce in *India* will be of little or no substantial benefit to our citizens.

The *FEDERALIST* next interrogates, "are we, that is to say, both nations, constrained to keep this trade thus limited."

I will not arrest the public attention with the rehearsal of the long train of trite remarks, and self-evident propositions, which immediately succeed this question; they might amuse the *FEDERALIST*, and strike him like sound arguments, but in my opinion they are a species of *lullaby* logic, more suitable for the first form of a school, than the enlightened public tribunal. I will therefore proceed to such of his remarks, as deserve attention.

The *FEDERALIST* admits that the legal and natural import of the last recited clause but one in the 13th article, is, that no right shall be claimed to the coasting trade of the British territories in *India*; and asserts, that the words are intended to prevent a right by implication, which the generality of the terms, expressing our right to trade there, might be construed to include. It is clear, in my opinion,

xion, that this clause was intended to prevent our vessels from carrying goods coastways in *India*, and that such is the natural and legal import of the words, however different the construction which sophistry may give them. In the 3d article of the Treaty, are the following expressions—"But it is understood, that this article does not extend to the admission of vessels of the U. States into the sea-ports, harbors, bays or creeks of his Majesty's said territories, &c."—And why may not the FEDERALIST with equal propriety, contend that those words are also intended to prevent a right by implication which the generality of the terms expressing our authority to pass, repass and trade, in *Canada*, might be construed to include? Under the idea of the FEDERALIST, that this clause is meant only to prevent a right by implication, suppose, in case of a ratification of the Treaty, our merchants should petition Lord DORCHESTER to admit their vessels *freely* into the river *St. Lawrence*, and to proceed to *Quebec*, and *there* land and dispose of their cargoes; if successful in the application, a *profitable trade* would probably result to them.

The FEDERALIST further asserts, "that before the Treaty is ratified, *Great-Britain* may permit to our vessels the coasting-trade; after it is ratified, she may permit the same." Wonderful discovery! It is here however necessary to remark, that prior to the Treaty, our citizens enjoyed a free trade to the British territories in *India*, in common with other nations, but that after its ratification, no one will deny that the masters of our vessels will be obliged to return from *India* immediately to some port or place in this country, and to give bonds *faithfully* to land within the same whatever goods they may export from thence. By this restriction they will be deprived of the trade they have hitherto pursued from one port in *India* to another, and from thence to the *Mauritius*, and the *Cape-of-Good-Hope*, and back, and from exporting the produce of *India* upon their own account, or on freight, by the exercise of which privilege, in some instances, our ships *merely* by freights from *India* to *Canton*, have in a few months earned from 20 to 30000 dollars, and this *profitable trade* they will no longer enjoy. Our citizens will al-

so be prohibited from the exportation in *their own ships*, of goods upon their own account, or on freight to Europe. From these facts, it is presumable therefore, that in future, should the Treaty be ratified, they will not employ in the trade to the British settlements in *India* more than one fourth part of the tonnage employed by them within the last five years. This change in our commercial intercourse with those settlements operates with peculiar and pointed hardship upon the citizens of the United States, as all other nations continue in the enjoyment of the same privilege, and no disposition yet appears in *Great-Britain* to withhold it from them.

America had certainly a right to expect the same indulgencies would have been secured to her citizens in their intercourse to the British settlements in *India* as are enjoyed by other nations; as British vessels by the Treaty are allowed to enter our ports as freely as those of other nations, and receive from us indulgencies which are not allowed even to our Allies. It may perhaps be said, that the rights of other nations in this intercourse is merely *permissive*; but if *Great-Britain* feels towards us that amicable disposition which certain politicians, in and out of Congress, have declared, it is indeed extraordinary that she should deny us the participation of the *same* right which they still enjoy, and which they will probably continue to enjoy.

The 8th reason of the report, is, "because in every stipulation respecting our intercourse with the Colonial possessions of *Great-Britain*, the whole commerce of the United States is colonized in return."

The *FEDERALIST* appears to be at a loss to comprehend the precise meaning of this reason; the Committee intended undoubtedly by the expressions, that in our intercourse with some of the Colonial possessions of *Great-Britain* under the commercial articles in the Treaty, that the Commerce of the United States was controllable by, and dependent upon *Great-Britain*.

Is not this evident, by our citizens being obliged to return immediately to the United States, with whatever goods they may export from

from *India*, as has been already shewn; and does there appear a similar restriction to this, in any of our Treaties with other nations?

The 9th article of the report, is, "because the clause by which the British Government reserves to itself the right of imposing on American vessels, entering British ports in *Europe*, a duty which shall countervail the difference of the duty payable on the importation of European and Asiatic goods into the United States, in British or American bottoms, places it in the power of that Government to enable British subjects to become the importers of Asiatic and European goods into the United States, to the exclusion of our citizens."

Upon this reason, the *Federalist* "observes that it is really difficult to comprehend how the reservation here mentioned can be attended with the consequences suggested; and states that if our vessels enter their ports on equal terms as we permit their vessels to enter ours, it is hard to conceive we should be losers." This position is true—but can any person pretend that by the Treaty our vessels and cargoes can enter *British* ports upon so favorable terms as *British* vessels and cargoes can enter our ports? Can our citizens import in their own bottoms into Great Britain the productions and manufactures of *China*? On the other hand, cannot the *British East-India Company* order their ships from that country, fraught with its productions and manufactures, into our ports? And cannot *they*, or any *British* merchants, load ships from the stores of the Company in *London*, and order them for *Boston*, as they did in the year 1773 and there land and sell the same? Does not the Treaty authorize the *British* government to exercise the right of imposing on American vessels entering into *British* ports in *Europe*, such a duty as may countervail the difference of duty now payable on the importation of European and Asiatic goods when imported into the United State in British or American vessels? If this right is by the Treaty granted to Great-Britain, as she knows, as well as any nation on earth, the value and use of rights, will she not exercise it? And should she thus exercise it, will the United States have on their part any just cause of complaint? And where will be the difficulty in her allowing

(owing by way of bounty (as she is well acquainted with bounties and drawbacks) to the *East India Company* or to British merchants the extra amount that may be drawn from our vessels under the *countervailing clause* to balance the *alien duty* they may pay in this country? Are not the Members of the British Cabinet, the most acute Financiers in the world, competent to a measure of this kind? It is well known that Great-Britain possesses the right to impose any additional duties on our vessels entering her ports, and also the right to prohibit the entry of our vessels into her ports. But there is no ground to suppose she would attempt to encrease the duty upon our vessels entering her ports in order to countervail the alien duties imposed by us upon merchandize imported by her subjects from *Canton* or any other foreign country into the United States, *unless* she should be authorized to do it by Treaty, under which all right of complaint would be surrendered.

To impair the force of the *countervailing clause*, the *Federalist* states that Great-Britain by the Treaty obligates herself to impose no higher duties on our vessels in her ports, than she does on those of other nations. This it is true appears as a general declaration in the first paragraph in the 15th article, but notwithstanding in the next paragraph of the *same* article may be seen the clause that concedes the right to the British government to countervail the alien duty that may be paid by her subjects in our ports; to which clause there is no counterpart. As this stipulation is *subsequent* to the general declaration and *special* in its nature, it is obvious that it was intended to control the stipulation which provides that our vessels shall pay no higher duties in British ports than those of other nations. Besides, men as *adroit* at points as the Members of the British Cabinet, will tell us *at once*, that by imposing duties in order to countervail duties in conformity to the Treaty, it cannot be inferred that *new* or *additional* duties are imposed upon our vessels, and that they continue notwithstanding to enter their ports upon equal terms with those of all other nations; and I will now ask the *Federalist* whether he actually thinks that Lord *Grenville* who, as may be seen by the concluding paragraph, was in great haste when he made the Treaty,

Treaty, would have wasted his *precious* time in rumaging up this ingenious countervailing clause, unless he felt certain in his own mind that the insertion of it in the Treaty would prove advantageous to the British nation.

The Constitutionalist—No. IV,

As published in the Chronicle, Aug. 13, 1795.

Messrs. ADAMS and LARKIN,

THE 10th reason in the report is, "because although the terms of said Treaty appear to be reciprocal in many instances, yet from the local situation and circumstances of the United States, and the pacific system of policy they have adopted, that reciprocity is merely nominal and delusive."

The *Federalist* makes no comments upon this reason, but passes over it with this request to his readers, "that they would not assent to this assertion, without examining the Treaty for themselves, and at least desiring the Committee or Selectmen of *Boston*, to expose the fraud, before they pass censure on their whole government, for being deluded blockheads or something worse."

The readers of the *Federalist* could not stand in need of this caution, for the citizens of a free and enlightened country, will never receive or reject any opinion without previously examining it for themselves, and the Committee neither expected or wished their assent to this assertion without such examination. The Committee even if desired, are bound to expose no fraud, for their assertion implies no charge of fraud; it reprobates not the author of the Treaty, or its advocates, either in or out of the Senate, but the instrument itself; and it is their wish, as it ought to be the wish of every true friend to his country, that it may stand or fall in the public opinion, by its own intrinsic merits or demerits.

It

It may not however be a task so difficult, as the *Federalist* imagines, to adduce in support of this assertion even from the Treaty itself, the most *indisputable* and *stubborn* facts; nor will I solicit the public assent to the truth of them, until my readers have had an opportunity to examine it for themselves with calmness and deliberation.

It is the opinion of VATTTEL, that "great *Republics* treat with Kings, as equal with equal, and when nations are in such a state that the *law of nature* requires that their Treaties should be equal.

Upon this respectable authority, if it will not shock the feelings of a *certain party*, I will for a moment suppose that the great Republic of *America* and the King of Great-Britain were, at the time of the negotiation, *equals*, and I will then examine whether the *Treaty* in any degree preserves the principles of *equality*.

The 3d article stipulates, "that it shall at all times be free to his Majesty's subjects, and to the citizens of the United States, freely to pass and repass by land or inland navigation, into the respective territories and countries of the two parties on the continent of *America*, (the country within the limit of the Hudson's Bay Company only excepted,) and to navigate all the lakes, rivers, and waters thereof, and freely to carry on trade and commerce with each other."

It further stipulates, "that all the ports and places on the eastern side of the river Mississippi to whichsoever of the parties belonging, may freely be resorted to and used by both parties."

It also stipulates, "that no duty of entry shall ever be levied by either party, on peltries brought by land, or inland navigation, into the said territories respectively."

To a person unacquainted with the geography of *this interior country*, and the portions of it belonging respectively to Great-Britain and to the United States, the *terms* in this article might appear to be reciprocal, as mutual liberty is thereby granted to pass by land, or inland navigation, into *each other's* territories; but when he is informed, that the line of intersection between them, will *essentially*

feltnally exclude the citizens of the United States from *the fur trade*, and that their superior advantages, from capitals and agents in England as well as among the Indians, will enable the subjects of Great-Britain to monopolize *that trade*; and that the vessels of Great-Britain have free admission into all our rivers and lakes even to the highest ports of entry, while on the other hand American vessels are excluded "from the *sea ports, harbors, bays & creeks* of his Majesty's territories, and also from *such parts* of the river, as are between the mouths thereof, and the highest ports of entry from the sea, except in small vessels trading from Montreal and Quebec." When he is also informed, that the *eastern side* of the river *Mississipi* in fact belongs to the United States, notwithstanding the artful expression, "*to whichever* of the parties belonging." And that British subjects are allowed without any equivalent, freely to resort to all the ports and places of the same *in common* with our own citizens. And further that the citizens of the United States in order to obtain through the British territories a passage free of duty for a *traffic* which by this article they will never enjoy in a considerable, if in any degree, open a passage *equally free* of duty to the vast quantities of peltry which will *annually* be brought through the United States by his Majesty's subjects, he will pronounce *at once* that the *reciprocity* in this article is merely *nominal* and *delusive*.

The 5th article in the Treaty stipulates, "that whereas doubts have arisen what river was truly intended under the name of the river St. Croix, mentioned in the Treaty, and forming a part of the boundary therein described, that question shall be referred to the final decision of three Commissioners."

By the language of the preamble to this article, it appears as if doubts had really arisen in the minds of *both parties* relative to this river, and upon this appearance the subsequent provision being to decide such doubtful question, the *terms* might at first view be considered to be *reciprocal*; but it being a fact, that the Ministers who negotiated the Treaty above referred to, had before them full and complete maps of that country, excluding all doubt and uncertainty

as to this river, and also that Great-Britain until the present Treaty, had expressed no serious doubts herself upon the subject, we shall be convinced that Great-Britain by this article will stand a chance to gain a very valuable tract of territory, to which she had never any *real*, if *pretended* claim; and the United States without any equivalent, will stand an equal chance to loose the same tract of territory to which they have the most indisputable title.

Do not the *terms* of the Treaty in *this* instance therefore, convey a reciprocity merely *nominal* and *delusive*?

The 6th article stipulates, that "whereas it is alledged by divers British merchants and others his Majesty's subjects, that debts to a considerable amount, which were *bona fide* contracted before the peace, still remain owing to them by citizens or inhabitants of the United States, and that by the operation of various lawful impediments since the peace, not only the full recovery of the said debts has been delayed, but also the value and security thereof have been in several instances, impaired and lessened, so that by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, the British creditors cannot *now* obtain and actually have and receive full and adequate compensation for the losses and damages which they have thereby sustained. It is agreed that in such cases where full compensation for such losses and damages cannot for whatever reason be actually obtained, had and received, by the said creditors in the ordinary course of justice, the United States will make full and complete compensation for the same to the said creditors."

I have been particular in the recital of nearly the whole of this article, because it involves various and important questions, which appear to be in so close connection as to be incapable of separation.

The debts thus claimed by British creditors are the debts of individuals of certain States, and the lawful impediments to their recovery of them are the acts of such States, for which the United States could not be responsible, nor by the former Treaty did they stipulate any further than to recommend to such States a removal of the impediments; still by this article the United States become the
debtors

debtors, and guarantee the payment of them. If they thus stipulate to do what neither law nor equity could demand of them, it being a maxim that the claimant in equity should do equity, we certainly might expect a similar stipulation on the part of Great Britain. Does any such stipulation appear in the Treaty? The damages from the plunder of negroes and other property by the British armies, incorporated into one sum, would constitute a counter demand to those debts of importance; but no provision is made for the consideration and allowance of such demands. If it be urged that the surrender of the posts is an equivalent, the answer very naturally occurs, the posts were the property of the United States, and if the detention of them by Great Britain was wrongful, the United States are in equity as much intitled to the damages of such detention, as the British creditors are to the interest upon their debts. I defy the Federalist, with all his dexterity at splitting hairs, to draw a line of discrimination in the two cases.

In this instance also, the terms may appear *reciprocal*, but the reciprocity on examination proves to be merely *nominal and delusive*.

By the 7th art. in the Treaty, *Great Britain* stipulates to make restitution for the spoliations upon our commerce; but in a process so *expensive, remote and uncertain*, as to be little more satisfactory to our citizens the sufferers, than an absolute denial of it. In the same article the United States on their part stipulate to make *full compensation* for all property taken by *French privateers*, equipped within their ports, or captured within their limits and jurisdiction, and in a process, prompt; certain and satisfactory. So ambiguous is the language, that at first view the terms in this instance might appear reciprocal, but every candid man upon examination, must pronounce the reciprocity to be merely nominal and delusive.

The 9th art. stipulates, "that British subjects who now hold lands in the territories of the United States, and American citizens who now hold lands in the dominions of his Majesty, shall continue to hold them according to the nature and tenure of their respective estates and titles, &c."

In this article the terms appear at first blush to be perfectly reciprocal, the conditions in mere expression being exactly similar; but the fact being known that British subjects who *now* hold in the territory of the United States, *vast tracts of land*, hold the same in *fee simple*, and that American citizens, if any such there are, who *now* hold a few rods of land in the dominions of his Majesty, hold the same only in *fee tail*, and not a trace of *reciprocity* will appear.

The 10th article stipulates, that neither the debts due from individuals of the one nation to individuals of the other, nor monies which they may have in the public funds, or in the public or private banks, shall ever in any event of war be sequestered or confiscated."

I shall not now consider the extreme impolicy and danger of this stipulation as it respects the United States, but attempt only to shew that there is no *counter* stipulation on the part of *Great-Britain*, as an equivalent for it. It is well known that *Great-Britain* always has been, and from her situation and commercial superiority, must continue to be the *creditor nation*, and that her subjects in private debts and in public funds, and in private banks, possess within the United States, millions of pounds, where the dominions of *Great-Britain* possess millions of pence. Although *then* the mere words imply equal stipulations, in reality the United States relinquish to Great Britain the great bulwark of their political security, and receive from her in return the mere shadow, and not the substance of reciprocity.

The 28th art. stipulates, "that whenever such articles (referring to articles of provisions becoming contraband by the existing laws of nations) shall for that reason be seized; the same shall not be confiscated, but the owners thereof shall be speedily and completely indemnified, and the captors, or in their default the government under whose authority they act, shall pay to the owners or masters of such vessels the full value of all such articles, with a reasonable mercantile profit thereon, together with the freight, and also the demurrage incident to such detention."

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By this stipulation the United States voluntarily surrender to Great Britain the right never before restricted, to send certain articles to France, and even legalize her arbitrary seizure of them—they receive in return the value of such articles, with what Great-Britain shall herself determine to be a reasonable mercantile profit thereon, and demurrage for detention; which sums may possibly amount to 30 per cent. when at the legal ports of destination, they might calculate upon 50 and 100 per cent.—And this condition on their part, without the probability or possibility that their situation will ever require, or the disposition of Great Britain ever permit on her part a similar stipulation. It is clear therefore that in this instance also, the terms of the treaty, although apparently reciprocal, that reciprocity is merely nominal and delusive.

I have thus selected from the Treaty such articles as appear to be the most strikingly deficient in reciprocity, and unless the real etymology of the terms "*nominal and delusive*," implies all the odium attached to them, by the Federalist, I feel confident that the public will acquit the Committee of any charge of impropriety in the use of them.

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The Constitutionalist—No. V,

As published in the Chronicle, Aug. 17, 1795.

Messrs. ADAMS and LARKIN,

THE 11th reason in the report, is, "because it prevents the United States from imposing any further restriction on British trade alone, and because it is stipulated that neither the debts due from individuals of one nation to individuals of the other, nor shares nor monies which they have in the public funds, or in any public or private banks, shall ever, in any event of war or national difference, be sequestered or confiscated. It is far from being impossible, that the exercise of this right may in the opinion of the National Legislature contribute to preserve the peace of our country, and protect the rights and property of our citizens from violation—We therefore esteem it highly *impolitic* that the public faith should be pledged that it NEVER should be exercised."

In my last I attempted to expose the *inequality* in various articles of the Treaty, and particularly in the article to which this reason refers; I will now examine the arguments of the FEDERALIST, in opposition to this reason.

Sophistry can gain but few proselytes in a country like this, in which wisdom is so prevalent; it is extraordinary therefore, that the FEDERALIST should attempt with such weapons to enforce upon his readers observations and arguments totally irrelevant to the *real subject* under consideration.

The question involved in this reason, is not, whether *credit* has been instrumental in the rapid rise of our country. It is not whether the United States in the last war gained by the sequestration or confiscation of British Debts.

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The proper questions for the consideration of the public, and which are almost too well understood to require illucidation, are these : Have the United States by the law of nations a right in the event of war or any national difference, to sequester or confiscate such debts ? Having such right is it politic for the United States to stipulate by Treaty, *never* to exercise it ?

There are *certain duties* which every nation owes to *itself*, as well as to other nations, the most important of *which* is the care and preservation of itself. This duty the law both of nature and nations *strictly* enjoins upon it as an obligation *absolute* and *indispensible* ; and as every duty supposes a right to every thing necessary for the discharge of it, it follows that the nation whenever its care and preservation shall require, has a right *thus* to sequester or confiscate such debts.

A *state of war* changes the condition of the nation, and gives to it rights which before it did not possess. Thus VATTTEL observes, "that when the head of a State or Sovereigns declares war against another sovereign, it implies that the whole nation declares war against the other, and that *all* the subjects of the one are enemies to *all* the subjects of the other inclusively." He also observes, "that the sovereign hath naturally a right over what his subjects may be indebted to the enemies, and therefore he may confiscate debts of this nature, if the terms of payment happen in time of war, or at least he may prohibit his subjects from paying while the war continues." He also adds in a passage immediately succeeding *what* the FEDERALIST has cited, in order to controvert this doctrine, "a state of war does not so much as touch the sums which it owes to the enemy ; every where, in case of a war, funds credited to the public, are exempt from confiscation and seizure."

The principles laid down in the two passages preceding this, are clearly recognized and established by GROTIUS and PUFFENDORF, and when we examine what follows this last quotation, we shall find that nothing even in VATTTEL appears to shake the foundation of them—He next observes that this is a *general custom* lately adopted by the nations of Europe, for the advantage and safety of commerce.

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The situation of European nations might have led them to this custom, but they have not recognized the same by any national compacts or treaties ; it cannot therefore be considered in an absolute degree obligatory on a nation like *this*, whose situation in war might demand a very different mode of conduct.

The FEDERALIST, with *wonderful pathos*, aims to address the passions ; “there is scarce an individual (says he) who would not revolt with horror at the suggestion, that because his nation was at war with the nation of his creditor, he should refuse to pay what is justly due. There is scarce an individual who would not equally revolt with horror at the suggestion, that in the event of war he was not bound by every tie to contribute his ALL to the nation. The nation hath, as has been already shewn, a right over the debts which he owes, and by becoming the debtor in his place, takes from him the obligation he was before under to his creditor ; the sequestration or confiscation of this debt being *therefore* the *act* of the nation, not *his act*, he cannot be chargeable with a breach of faith : Nor can the nation itself be chargeable with a breach of faith or honor, as the *great first law* of nature, the safety of the people, a law paramount to all other public or private obligations, sanctions this act. *That act* surely cannot be reprehensible either in individual or nation, which withholds a demand until a demand of equal value is restored, which refuses to do justice until justice is done. It may be easy and even natural for some to assume the austere visage of moralists, and with faint-like zeal to exclaim at the very appearance, without the reality of injustice in others ; but if the *imperious necessity* of war can in a *moral* as well as *political* view justify a nation in the deprivation of the life of an individual of the enemy, in the reprisal of his own private property upon the ocean, and his property of a certain description on shore, where lies the *secret* quality which at *once* stamps *this act* with a *peculiar turpitude*?

Having thus demonstrated that *this right* does not exist according to the laws both of nature and nations, I will examine whether it be *politic* for the United States by a solemn Treaty to pledge their *public faith* never to exercise it.

The term *never*, refers to time, and imports unlimited duration; the United States ought therefore to calculate with absolute certainty that no future contingency can ever require a dispensation of this *unlimited* condition.

The exercise of this right has never yet been restricted by Treaty. It has by common consent rested entirely with the wisdom and humanity of nations. It is no wonder then, that this *solemn pomp*, so novel and extraordinary, should excite general surprize. Upon the very face of it, it exhibits strong features of *distrust* on the part of Great Britain, and of *conscious guilt* on the part of the United States. She considers them as *knaves*, and proposes to bind them—They acknowledge the charge and consent to be bound. It is singular that the British Minister should surmise the necessity of binding the United States to the observance of *faith and honor*, and still more singular that the American Minister should by this public act declare to the world that his country required such precaution.

The impolicy of the stipulation will still further appear from other considerations.

Nature as she has vested every animal, so has she assigned to every nation the weapons most efficacious for its self defence. In the *forest* are animals in size and ferocity inferior to the *Tyger*, yet are armed with certain weapons by which they can keep him at bay. In the *air* are birds in strength and agility unequal to the Vulture, yet are enabled by peculiar powers, to elude his grasping talons. In the *ocean* are *fish*, mere atoms to the *Whale*, yet by certain latent weapons they can at once triumph over his majestic strength. It is so ordered by nature, that she may thereby preserve without irritation or destruction an equilibrium in her productions. In the extensive society of man, it is found that some nations in power far inferior to others, by peculiarity of situation or internal resources, are able to resist their encroachments.

The *Federalist* observes "that the nations of *Europe* have large fleets; that we are without any; that our vessels sail unguarded and unmanned; every moment liable to be taken, while theirs are in many instances protected with military force." The

The *very facts* by which he thus attempts to shew the *policy* of this stipulation on the part of the United States, I should select for my purpose to expose the *impolicy* of it.

I admit the *naval* strength of Great-Britain and the *naval* impotency of the United States, but it is this very inequality of situation which, I contend demands the most *tenacious* care of all our means of defence. Her navies have the power to annoy our commerce, and even to sweep the ocean of our vessels. The will sometimes accompanies the power and sets it in motion. Past experience may perhaps convince us of their close connection, and of this very natural action of one upon the other. Interest more generally than justice, guides the conduct of nations; and a reliance upon the former, is much more secure than a dependence on the latter. If the United States, therefore, possess any *internal means* by which in any situation they might counteract the exercise of this naval superiority, it cannot be wise or prudent in them to surrender *forever* the use of them. It is not impossible that the British minister, at the very moment of the negotiation, contemplated such means in their possession: The idea would not be novel in the British cabinet, that the *right of sequestration* might be exercised; and it is at least conjecturable, that impressed with the justice of our complaints, under the late British spoiliations, the minister feeling apprehensive that the United States might thus exercise this right, seized the favourable moment to insert this article in the treaty.

But, says the *FEDERALIST*, "if such right did exist, it could in no case be expedient to exercise it." Whether the exercise would be expedient or not, is immaterial—it is the impolicy of a surrender of it by treaty, which is the real question. Still however in a contemplation of the various and extraordinary *events* which take place between nations, it may not be difficult to imagine that at some future period, the circumstances between Great-Britain and the United States might not only render the exercise of it expedient, but indispensable.

An individual who carries his side arms to defend himself against

an assassin who awaits him, cannot absolutely determine that he shall ever find it expedient to use them ; still it would be imprudent and rash in him to lay them aside, when exposed to continual interviews with him.

To determine *future* by *past* events, (and the rule of decision cannot be very inaccurate) it is not impossible that Great-Britain might again, in defiance of the laws of nature and nations, let loose her *piratical privateers* upon our vessels—and in equal defiance of the maxims of justice, austere refuse indemnification to our citizens ; would it impair our credit at home or abroad, or enkindle the abhorrence of any nation in Europe, or of any individual, should the United States, under these *oppressive circumstances*, resort to this expedient, in order to relieve their injured, their distressed, their plundered citizens ? They might thus either themselves indemnify them, or induce Great-Britain to render them justice. In either case they might accomplish *what*, without this expedient in their hands, might demand that last and most dreadful alternative, an appeal to arms.

Has past experience convinced us that the simplicity of the British cabinet is incapable of brooding mischiefs to this country ?—Has her magnanimity on former occasions justified the idea of our security without defence ? Has her generous conduct towards us raised a demand of gratitude, a discharge of which requires this extraordinary engagement ? These are questions which require serious and satisfactory answers, before the public will agree with the **FEDERALIST** in the justice, the reciprocity, or the policy of this stipulation.

The

The Federalist.—No. v.

As published in the Centinel, Aug. 8, 1795.

MR. RUSSELL,

THE first number of the CONSTITUTIONALIST, in answer to the FEDERALIST, expresses his fears of the danger that may arise, from the smallest branch of the Legislature possessing a power, to make treaties independent of the larger. This remark is aimed against the constitution, that if it has no other effect, it may prepare the mind of the reader for his construction : which, if true, will be a death blow to the treaty, and end all contest on account of its expediency. The town, on being convinced of this, may remain quiet and undisturbed ; for if made by people who have no power, it can never be a law—it is a mere dead letter.

After quoting various passages of the constitution, which describe the powers of Congress ; he considers it as clear, that no treaty can be made, in which the organ authorized, by the constitution, to make treaties, shall exercise any of those powers. The constitution would, according to this writer, read thus—The President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall have power to make treaties, provided two thirds of the Senate concur ; and provided always, that such treaties do not relate to peace or war, that they do not regulate commerce with foreign nations—and that they do not provide for the common defence, and general welfare of the United States.

It would be strange if the people of *America* had made such a constitution, as prevented them from any negotiation with foreign powers—on such construction, this would be the case. The President and Senate are the only body empowered to make treaties ;
and

and, according to this reasoning, their power is so restrained, that it can never be exercised on such subjects, as nations treat upon. The mere stating the consequences of such construction, is sufficient to shew its absurdity ; and to convince any reasonable man that it originated in no regard to the constitution.

Does it follow because the constitution vests a power in two bodies to do an act, that the exercise of such power by either will be wrong ? If by either, then both—and the power is void. If commerce cannot be regulated by treaty with foreign nations, because a power to regulate commerce is given to Congress ; then Congress cannot regulate commerce, because the President and Senate have power to make treaties, in which is undoubtedly included a power to regulate commerce with foreign nations.

The people of the United States, as has been elsewhere remarked, willing to provide for the two common methods of regulating commerce, viz ; by legislative acts, and by treaties, appointed Congress to make laws where those were necessary ; and the President, with consent of the Senate, to make treaties where that method was obtainable, and thought most beneficial. The power, vested in this latter organ of the people, is as full and complete, as that of making laws in the ordinary mode of legislation, is in the other.

The wisdom and caution of the people, is, in no instance, more signally displayed than in thus vesting a power to make treaties. Promptitude in seizing the fittest occasion, secrecy and dispatch are often necessary in the forming of treaties. Such qualifications are not to be found in large bodies. Hence the wisdom of vesting a power of negociation in the President. To avoid too great haste, imprudence, or want of knowledge, which might arise from an individual, the people appointed the Senate, (two-thirds of which must concur) to weigh and discuss the merits of a treaty, and sanction it with their approbation, before the President can render it obligatory on the United States.

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When it is considered, that the Senate will ever be composed of some, who have been of that department, nearly six years at least; their knowledge of the laws of the United States, of its foreign and domestic relations, of the state of its commerce, and what regulations will most advance its prosperity, cannot be questioned. These qualifications render that body pre-eminently fit, for the duty of advising the President, in his negotiations with foreign powers. The secrecy used in such affairs, and which is so bitterly exclaimed against by this writer, is indispensably necessary to the safety and prosperity of the people. It avoids the violent opposition, which arises from the influence and intrigue of foreigners, or of those who prefer the interest of a foreign nation to the interest of their own. The people appointed the President and Senate to regulate their affairs with foreign nations, and neither directed, nor authorized them to take the advice of any man or body of men. To have communicated their transactions while in train, would have been to hazard the interest of the people; and such a breach of trust as to have justly exposed themselves to the severe reprehension of those for whom they acted.

Under the confederation, the powers of Congress were not greater on this subject, than those of the President and Senate, under the present constitution. Congress then made treaties of alliance and commerce. The treaties were discussed, and ratified in secret. If it had been otherwise, the peace, happiness and independence of the country might have been greatly endangered. Does any one believe, that the court of *France* would have negotiated with our ministers, if they had supposed the negotiation would instantly be made public; and that after a treaty was formed, instead of being discussed in Congress, it was to combat all the assaults of foreign influence in the cities of *America*?

It is highly probable that had it not been for the *secrecy*, as well as the consummate skill and firmness of Mr. JAY and Mr. ADAMS, foreign influence would have prevented the explicit acknowledgment of our independence by *Great-Britain*, and our right to the fisheries.

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In the important treaties, negotiated and ratified under the confederation, there never was a hiss against them, because they were transacted in secret. The people knew that their rights depended on this mode of conducting such business; and no one was hardy enough, then, to interfere with the essential rights of the people. Let those who clamour at the President and Senate for doing the business intrusted to them, in the manner which the experience of all nations, especially of the United States, has stamped as alone safe and wise, shew that foreign influence and domestic intrigue is less to be apprehended now than formerly—that the people's rights will be better conducted by them, than by those whom the people have chosen.

The objection to the treaty because the President and Senate had no power to make such, will appear still more extraordinary, when it is remembered that the whole ground of bringing forward the commercial resolutions, by Mr. MADISON, the winter before last; of their recommendation by Mr. JEFFERSON, then Secretary of State, was to induce Great Britain to make a treaty with the United States. The resolutions were to apply only to nations, who had no commercial treaty with the United States; and they were supported against Great Britain, because it was said she would make no treaty with us. Both parties then agreed that if commerce was regulated by treaty, it was out of their power; and the supporters of the resolutions advocated them, on the probability of their forcing Great-Britain to regulate commerce by treaty. But if they had been blest with half the logic of the CONSTITUTIONALIST, they would have seen that it was wrong and insidious in the President, to have directed Mr. JEFFERSON to write to Mr. HAMMOND, demanding "*if he was authorised to conclude or negotiate arrangements with us, which might fix the commerce between the two countries, on principles of reciprocal advantage.*"—in Mr. JEFFERSON, to have made "*proposals of friendly arrangement to Great-Britain, on the subject of commerce*"—and because of that government's unwillingness to enter into such arrangements with the Executive, to have

have proposed to Congress, to commence a system of prohibitions, duty, and regulations to produce what he thought might be better done by treaty. The House of Representatives, (whom this writer seems to have mistaken for Congress, speaking of the Senate's consenting to a ratification of the treaty, he says, "*assumes powers constitutionally vested in the House of Representatives*") instead of debating whether or not it was the intention of the British nation, to treat with us on commerce, should have addressed the Executive on the insidious conduct of demanding powers from a man, authorizing him to treat, and proposing to him to negotiate on subjects, on which they themselves were not authorized to treat.

A particular objection is made to the 6th article of the instrument, because it stipulates for the payment of certain British debts ; to execute which stipulation, it will be indispensably necessary to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, or excises.—It is doubtless true, that Congress must lay and collect taxes to make this payment, if the treaty is ratified. The President and Senate have done what they thought just and right ; and it remains for Congress to do what is necessary on their part to fulfill the engagements of the United States.—"*Congress is to pay the debts and provide for the general welfare of the United States.*" And no good man can doubt, but that body will do what their duty directs. It is true, Congress may refuse to do this—so they might refuse to pass any laws ; but it is not a supposable case. The Constitution is framed on the idea that every part of the government will do that, which it is authorized to do for the public good. What is to become of our unhappy fellow citizens in *Algiers*, if the doctrine advanced here is true ; Congress cannot make a treaty for their redemption, because Congress cannot make any treaty. The President can make none for their redemption, because he must incur a debt to the United States, and to pay that debt, it may be indispensably necessary to lay and collect taxes. What a nerveless arm do these people give to the Constitution ! Under a pretence of supporting it ; they destroy the power of the nation, and the liberties of their fellow-citizens. The

The CONSTITUTIONALIST says, the FEDERALIST was incorrect in his statement of the occurrences of the meeting; but does not even hint in what he was incorrect, unless it be in the statement made of the publication of the treaty prior to the meeting. The FEDERALIST after stating the publication of the treaty, in *Boston*, as allowed to be true by the CONSTITUTIONALIST; says the foregoing was the only publication of the treaty, prior to the meeting of the inhabitants on the 10th, except a publication of its supposed contents, by some one who read it; and which, on comparison with Mr. MASON's copy, appears to be incorrect. The CONSTITUTIONALIST says, "*the inhabitants of this town through the medium of several newspapers, had read nearly a counterpart in substance of the treaty before the arrival of the express from Philadelphia, with Mr. MASON's copy.*" The only incorrectness charged against the FEDERALIST, is, in saying, that this counterpart in substance as it is called—was incorrect. Some of the reasons on which he said this was incorrect, are as follows, viz.—In the 7th article, as stated in this counterpart, it says, "*by this the United are to refund the value of English prizes taken in our waters, or by privateers fitted out in our ports.*" In the copy of Mr. MASON, it is not so. The United States are to refund *only* in such cases, where they forbore to use all the means in their power to obtain restitution. In the counterpart as it is called, 9th article—"The subjects and citizens of the contracting parties, shall hold real estate in each others territories, with the same advantages as the citizens and subjects of the respective states." This is grossly wrong, and well known to have caused much of the zeal excited against the treaty. In the treaty, the holding of lands is limited merely to those who *now* hold lands, their heirs and assigns. In the 13th article of this supposed counterpart, it is said that we can carry nothing that we export from the East-Indies, to any country but the United States, and here we cannot partake of the India carrying trade. This was an article that gave more umbrage to the inhabitants of *Boston*, than any other.

By inspecting Mr. MASON's copy, it appears that the goods exported from East-India, are to be carried to *America*; that we have

have an express stipulation for a direct trade to and from India ; that we are perfectly free to export from America to any part of the world, the goods we import from India ; that the coasting trade, and the trade from India to other parts of the world, rest on precisely the same footing as they did before, except that which is stipulated in another article that they will not refuse to us any privileges in the trade which they may grant to other nations.

In this counterpart, it is stated under the 18th article, "*as it is difficult to determine the cases in which provisions carried to an enemy, are contraband, to avoid dispute in these cases, should such provisions be seized, and the owners shall be paid for them, also their freight, &c. and a reasonable mercantile profit.*"

By an examination of the article in Mr. MASON'S copy, it appears that provisions are never to be seized, but in cases where, by the existing law of nations, they are contraband, and even then they are paid for. In the one case it was a manifest giving up of rights now enjoyed of carrying provisions, while by the accurate copy, it is a clear and decided advantage to our citizens ; stipulating for payment of freight, profit and demurrage, in cases where by the law of nations, we had forfeited all claim to any thing. Can it be said that the FEDERALIST was wrong in stating that this counterpart was incorrect ?

It is conceded by the CONSTITUTIONALIST, that *this counterpart* was what the inhabitants of the town had read and consulted previous to their meeting, and that the preparatory steps to the town meeting, were totally unconnected with Mr. MASON'S copy of the treaty—This confirms what the FEDERALIST had suggested, and fully accounts for the warmth that was so visible against the treaty. If preparatory to the meeting, the real copy had been read, and consulted on, there is little reason to doubt, that a majority of the inhabitants would have been well satisfied with it.—The CONSTITUTIONALIST need not discover his anger, at an imputation that Mr. BACHE excited the patriotism of the petitioners for the town meeting. It was not even hinted by the FEDERALIST. They are perfectly

fectly welcome to the whole merit of the thing, and to the reputation of their spirited resentment against the treaty before they had read it. As the CONSTITUTIONALIST declares, that some days before the arrival of Mr. MASON's copy, they had drawn their petition for a town meeting.

The CONSTITUTIONALIST says, the Committee could not know what the two ministers, while in the act of forming the treaty, brought into consideration; and therefore could not have intended in the objection, the assertion with which the FEDERALIST charges them. The FEDERALIST did not charge the Committee with knowing what the two Ministers brought into consideration—He says they assumed a fact for which they did not chuse to give any evidence. He gave in his opinion that they did not know, if they did it would have been stated as the FEDERALIST presumes.

The FEDERALIST then concluded that the Committee meant by the words *brought into consideration*, that they were not the subject of negotiation; that such is certainly the natural meaning of the terms; and it was evidently the design of the Committee then; because they go on and state as objections to the treaty itself, their complaints not being provided for; and no body could be so uncandid as to believe, that they endeavoured to stretch their objections into many articles, intending the same thing; until the explanation made by the CONSTITUTIONALIST. He now says that all the evidence the Committee had on this subject is derived from these complaints and pretensions not being mentioned in the treaty itself. Then they make two charges on the same subject. 1st. We object to the treaty because our complaints have not been considered, by which we mean provided for and allowed; for the CONSTITUTIONALIST says the Committee did not know what passed in the negotiation; and 2dly, We object to the treaty because our complaints are not provided for and allowed; or else the charge is, that the consideration did not appear in the treaty, that is, that the whole negotiation did not make a part of the treaty—this last would be too absurd to impute to any body.

Until the CONSTITUTIONALIST had stated, that the 2d objection was not of a sufficient weight to prevent the ratification of the Treaty, it was really supposed that the town meant each of their reasons as a support of their general charge against the treaty, for being derogatory to national honor, &c. &c. but it seems now that the second objection was only part of a reason; whether half a reason, a 10th or 20th part of a reason, we are not informed—possibly the 20th part; the whole 20 objections forming one reason sufficiently important to prevent ratification; if this be the case, and the smallest part fails, the objection to its ratification falls. It is said that the British debts are to be put in one scale, and the damages for detention of posts in the other; but it seems this would not keep the beam even; for Mr. MADDISON states, that the annual loss by detention of posts, amounts to one million two hundred thousand dollars, making more than 14 millions of dollars; now it is presumed, that this would more than balance the unpaid debts—and the clamor would have been equally great against Mr. JAY, and the Senate, if a stipulation had not been made for payment of the whole; for it is not to be believed that men who feel so much more keenly for the public interest than those whom the people have appointed to guard and protect them, would have quietly given up 14 millions of dollars, for one million. In answer to an observation made by the Federalist, that damages for detention of territories were rarely if ever given after long and expensive wars, terminating in favor of the party dispossessed; it is said that such is the magnanimity of conquering nations, that they are willing to take the territory demanded, without insisting on any damages. This is a new history of the politics of nations, as well as the feelings of the human heart. Whether true or not, if such would be the issue of a contest for the posts, as seems conceded by the Constitutionalist, it will certainly be considered wise by the people of *America*, that the Minister was willing to take the posts now without damages for detention, rather than involve his country in war to obtain them and damages, when even those, who oppose the treaty on this ground, think the issue of a war, would, if we were conquerors, give us no more than we now have with peace, and without expence.

The

The Federalist.—No. VI.

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MR. RUSSELL,

THE FEDERALIST in his remarks on the third reason of the town, did not mean to state the reasoning of the British, on the 7th article of the treaty of 1783, as in his opinion conclusive against the demand of the American Minister, for the value of negroes embarked from *New York*, and supposed formerly to have been the property of Americans. In those observations he gave no opinion. The weight of the reply by the British minister, must ever depend on its own intrinsic merit—and every candid American will give to it, all due force. The FEDERALIST stated that, under such circumstances, it was not supposeable, the British nation would recede from their construction. If that was to be presumed, the agent for *America* ought not to have adhered to this, as a point indispensable; because by breaking off all negotiation on that account, he gave up the forts; he gave up all indemnification for our property captured on the ocean, and also the commercial advantages of the treaty.

The merchants of *Massachusetts* will consider, if they are willing to surrender all claim to their property captured by the British—to saddle themselves with an Indian war, at the annual expense of a million of dollars, in a vain attempt, to gain by force, indemnity for a few slaves, once the property of their southern brethren.

The CONSTITUTIONALIST says, “that after a communication of the treaty to the British general, every species of the property of the American inhabitants ought to have been held sacred; yet in the succeeding month, a large number of negroes did embark for the British provinces.” It may be true, that a number of negroes did embark for the British provinces, but it by no means follows they were American property.

It is agreed that all the negroes which were embarked, were found in *New-York*, by Sir GUY CARLTON, and that he arrived there during the war. It is not pretended, that any negroes were taken from their proper masters, or from any parts of the United States, under the controul of the American government, after the receipt of the Treaty, by the British Generals. These negroes were either property, or they were free people. If property, they were as liable to be lost and acquired by the rights of war, as any other property. It is not disputed that the negroes which embarked from *New-York*, were either captured in war, or invited by a proclamation, declaring they should be free on acceptance of the terms therein proffered. Had the southern gentlemen any more right under the treaty of 1783, to claim negroes of the first class, than the New-England men their vessels, or other goods taken during the war? They were both equally property in the view of a southern merchant. Human flesh, provided it is black, and a ship are held in the same light by slave holders, differing only as to their value in the market.—If captured during war, was not the property completely changed? It was in a vessel, why not then equally so with a slave, which was as much property as a vessel. The Constitutionalist is desirous to point out the difference, if there be any.

The other class was composed of such, as, induced by the British proclamation, had left their masters and withdrawn themselves into the British lines. It will not be denied, that this is a rightful mode of depriving an enemy of property. After they had arrived within the British lines, it will not be contended that the British could deliver them up, without a manifest breach of faith. They had ceased to be American property, as much as a vessel that had drifted from a port in the United States, into a port of the British. Had then the southern citizens any more claim for these negroes, than the New-England men for their vessels drifted from their own, into the port of their enemy? The same reasoning applies to both, and appears just.

Such has been said to be the reasoning of the British minister in answer to Mr. JAY's repeated applications on this subject. Before
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Mr. JAY is blamed for not obtaining payment for the negroes, or the Senate for consenting to the treaty, though silent on this subject, those who affect to say that the treaty should not be ratified unless compensation is made ought to give it a satisfactory answer.

But it is said that Sir GUY CARLTON was charged by General WASHINGTON, with having violated the treaty, in suffering the embarkation of negroes; that he acknowledged the truth of the charge, by his precautions in ascertaining the number, and thereby gave an indirect opinion that restitution should be made for them. The mere ascertaining the number cannot support this construction. It is equal evidence that in his opinion, no claim for restitution could be maintained. Could he as an officer of the British crown, consistently with any of the principles on which men generally act, violate the treaty, and at the same moment, give to the complaining party evidence of the violation, when fully within his power to have refused it? It is not presumable. Examine the words of his letter, and it will appear that he did not admit the possibility of a British Minister having made a treaty, that bears such a construction. They are as follows, viz. *"The negroes in question, I have already said, I found free when I arrived at New York, I had therefore no right, as I thought, to prevent their going to any part of the world they thought proper."*

"I must confess that the mere supposition, that the King's Minister could deliberately stipulate in a treaty, an engagement to be guilty of a notorious breach of the public faith, towards people of any complexion, seems to denote a less friendly disposition than I could wish, and I think less friendly than we might expect. After all, I only give my opinion. Every negroes' name is registered, the master he formerly belonged to, with such other circumstances as serve to denote his value, that it may be adjusted by compensation, if that was really the intention, and meaning of the treaty. Restoration, where inseparable from a breach of public faith, is, as the world, I think, must allow, utterly impracticable."

The Commissioners appointed by Gen. WASHINGTON, to superintend the embarkation from New-York, and see that no American property was carried away, at the close of the business, make report

to him of their doings, wherein they say, "Sir GUY CARLTON ass-
 sessed to distinguish between the cases of such negroes as came within
 the British lines, in consequence of the promises of freedom, and indem-
 nity held out in the proclamations of his predecessors, and such as came in
 either previous to the proclamations, or subsequent to the cessation of hos-
 tilities. Negroes of the first description he supposed not included
 in the treaty, as the public faith had, prior to the treaty, been pledged
 to them for their security against the claims of their former masters."

The CONSTITUTIONALIST wishes to have it believed, that among
 good negroes, there were none sick, none so young or so old, as to
 be of little value; that they were all prime slaves; and that free ne-
 groes were so enraptured with this land of liberty, (where, to be
 sure such people are held as slaves) that they would not go with
 those, who acknowledge them free, and where the laws would pro-
 tect them with equal security as in *America*; and that, under a mi-
 litary government, those who were really slaves, could not be compel-
 led to go with their proper masters. On these, and his observations
 on the value of so many thousand human beings the FEDERALIST need
 make no remark. The CONSTITUTIONALIST much underrates the
 understandings of the Americans, if he supposes that any advantage
 can be derived to his arguments from such attempts at imposition.

The real question before the public is—would the British nation
 accede to a construction that destroyed their public faith? It is not
 probable they would. What then was the wisest step to be taken on
 the part of *America*? To accept the treaty thus; or in order to es-
 tablish a construction, to say the least doubtful, give up all hopes of
 obtaining the posts peaceably, sacrifice our navigation now floating
 unprotected, and instantly abandon our citizens whose property has
 been captured on the ocean. No man can doubt but that to under-
 take a war, for such a purpose, would be the height of madness; that
 nothing but loss and disgrace could follow it. To give to this ob-
 jection all the consequence that is attempted, betrays extreme
 thoughtlessness, if nothing worse—Beside sacrificing all that we gain
 by treaty, it would be wantonly sporting with the treasure and lives
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of Americans, for an object of dubious right, trivial in its value, and confessedly unattainable.

The CONSTITUTIONALIST mistakes, if he thinks the FEDERALIST stated that any treaty between the Kings of Great-Britain and Prussia had regulated the law of nations in that particular case—He stated that the King of Prussia in 1753 complained that the property of his subjects had been unlawfully seized on the high seas by British subjects, and condemned—That the answer by the British Court was, that all captures at sea were tried by Admiralty Courts, and that this was the immemorial custom of Europe. The CONSTITUTIONALIST says that this doctrine, though just, does not apply to our cases; that they are not similar.

Of what do the United States complain? of unlawful captures at sea; of what did the King of Prussia complain? of unlawful captures at sea.—The United States and Prussia were respectively at peace, when the captures were made, and Britain at war. What was the doctrine stated, and acknowledged true by the CONSTITUTIONALIST? "*That by courts of admiralty, acting according to the law of nations, and particular treaties, all captures at sea now are, and have been immemorially judges of, in every country of Europe, and submitted to by neutral powers, and that any other method of trial would be manifestly unjust, absurd, and impracticable.*" This he agrees to be according to the usage of nations—He is desired to point out the distinguishing mark in property claimed by the American merchants as captured from them by the British, which is not included in the terms, *all captures at sea*. He is desired likewise to shew wherein the doctrine laid down by Mr. JEFFERSON does not apply.

In a treaty of Peace made in 1763, between the King of Great-Britain, the King of France, and the King of Spain, it is expressly stipulated, that "*the decision of the prizes made in time of peace, by the subjects of Great Britain, on the Spaniards, shall be referred to the courts of justice of the admiralty of Great Britain, conformably to the rules established among all nations, so that the validity of the said prizes*
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between the British and Spanish nations, shall be decided and judged, according to the law of nations, and according to treaty, in the courts of justice of the nation who shall have made the capture."

In the treaty of Peace made between *France* and *Great Britain* in 1783—it is stipulated that the decision of the prizes and seizures made prior to the hostilities shall be referred to the respective courts of justice; so that the legality of the said prizes and seizures be decided according to the laws of nations, and to treaties in the courts of justice of the nation, which shall have made the capture, or ordered the seizure.

Thus we see that after long and expensive wars by the most powerful nations on the globe, this mode of trial, and obtaining compensation for seizures made in time of peace was considered right and acquiesced in. It is not therefore probable that after immense expense of blood and treasure in a war with *England*, if successful, we should obtain better terms. Is it not wise then to accept that with peace, which in the most prosperous event of a war would be all we could expect to gain?

He attempts to derive force to the reason of the town by saying that the United States have agreed to a more summary mode of trial of the British claims; and as an equivalent they should have granted a like mode. A little attention to the causes of complaint on the part of the British will shew that a determination by commission will only take place, where it is impossible for the ordinary course of judicial proceedings to reach the evil.—Firstly, The British debts due in 1783. The treaty authorizes commissioners to take cognizance only of such debts as, where by the operation of various impediments created by law. British creditors have been prevented from obtaining justice, and where judicial courts cannot now procure them compensation. If they can obtain justice in the courts of law, they are obliged to resort there. The commissioners cannot sustain their complaints. It establishes this summary mode to compensate for losses, occasioned by our not permitting British creditors to have the advantage of the laws of the land, which was expressly stipulated

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ed in the treaty of peace. For redress of our complaints, the courts are open, and what we cannot obtain in this way, shall be made up to us by commissioners. Surely it will not be said, that we have agreed to a more summary mode of trial for British complaints, than they have for American complaints.

The other ground of complaint on the part of the British, is in permitting their vessels to be taken in our ports, or by privateers fitted out in our harbours; and forbearing, for particular reasons, to make use of all the means in our power to prevent their being captured, or to obtain restitution when captured. It is well remembered what the particular reasons were—A foreigner intent on involving our country in a war, and supported by an unprincipled faction of Americans, created such a ferment as rendered it hazardous to attempt executing the laws.

The government forebore to afford them justice in our courts, at that time. It cannot now; those who then insulted the sovereignty of our country are fled, and have taken the property with them—It would be a mockery of justice to refer the British complainants to our courts, when neither their property, nor the persons who injured them are within our jurisdiction. It will not be pretended that these complaints are in a similar state with ours.

The CONSTITUTIONALIST concedes that the country occupied by Indians within the British territory, contains by far the greatest proportion of furs, but then it is said that this is not advantageous, because the British traders can supply their stores from the United States. By his own statement then, the advantage is double. We can purchase largely of furs, and can pay for them by the sale of goods. Is it disadvantageous to have a new market open, where we can buy a valuable article, either for our use at home, or for exportation to foreign countries; because a market is likewise opened, where we may vend many goods imported from *Europe* and *Asia*, at our own prices; for this writer says, by reason of ice in the *St. Lawrence*, the British traders cannot import goods from *Europe*
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more than half the year—and will be obliged to supply their stores from the United States.

In the next paragraph he says—"They will also be able, however extraordinary the grant of this privilege may appear, to import their goods into any port of the United States, and from such atlantic port transport the same throughout our whole territory free of *an alien duty*, upon the same terms as our own citizens—What this writer would intend here cannot be conjectured—He certainly cannot intend to say, that British subjects can import goods into the atlantic ports of the United States, at less duties than they did before the treaty—If he does he intends to deceive his readers—There is not a word in the treaty that gives such right—Goods imported into the atlantic ports by British subjects are liable to the same duties before and after the ratification of the treaty. If they should chuse to import all their goods into the atlantic ports of the United States, and pay us duties, and transport them through our territories, what would be the injury to us? None—We should be great gainers. And no sensible man could ever suppose any other than beneficial consequences, if all the British colonies were to be supplied through the United States.

In the next sentence, the note is entirely changed, and it is there asserted "that British traders have such large capitals and such connections with the Indians; and Americans have such small capitals, and without such connections, that the article can be of no advantage to the Americans. His only meaning here can be, that we can neither have a market for importation or exportation. He is requested to reconcile the contradiction between this and the former part of the paragraph; where he gives us to understand that the British traders must be supplied from the United States, because they cannot import more than half the year by sea. He says, *Asiatic* goods under the treaty cannot be afforded on better terms, by American citizens, than by British subjects; because the British government reserves to itself the right of imposing on American vessels entering into the British ports in *Europe*, a tonnage duty equal to that which shall be payable by British vessels in the ports of *Ameri-*

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ea; and also such duty as may be adequate to countervail the difference of duty now payable on the importation of European and Asiatic goods, imported into the United States, in British or American vessels." The CONSTITUTIONALIST is desired to point out how this article can possibly produce the consequences he predicts, or what relation it has to this subject. We import our Asiatic goods, direct from *Asia*. We do not import them from any *British* ports in *Europe*.

It has not been denied that Asiatic goods are a third cheaper in the United States, than in England, whence the colonists must get them, unless they import them from *America*. How then can it be said, with or without this wonderful reason, which with equal aptness might be applied to increase the clamour on the negro business, that Asiatic goods cannot be afforded on better terms by American citizens, than by British subjects? He goes on to say, "that more is required than the naked assertion of the FEDERALIST, to prove that the American citizens will be able to import the goods, that are consumed by the Indians, into the United States, upon better terms than British subjects can import the like merchandizes into the British provinces." It is true, and the knowledge of every reflecting man is what supports the assertion; but lest the assertion of the FEDERALIST should not be believed for the reasons given by him, the CONSTITUTIONALIST endeavours to confirm it by telling us that the British traders will have an advantage in buying of us, rather than importing by the river *St. Lawrence*; that the British can even import into the *Atlantic* ports of the United States, and thence transport by land into the interior of their own country, on better terms, than they can into their own ports.

This writer asserts, "that the British subjects could not enter our ports as freely before the treaty as they may in case of its ratification, for they were before subject to an alien duty, which will be completely suspended by its ratification." The assertion of the FEDERALIST was, "they speaking of the British, enter our seaports

as freely now, as they can by treaty." This is true ; and the CONSTITUTIONALIST is desired to shew a word in the treaty, that lessens the duty now paid by British subjects, in our seaports.

After allowing that the traffic with the Indians is within the British territories, he remarks that "just removing her posts, over the line of intersection, between the two territories, by which means her settlers and trading houses, will remain an insurmountable barrier to the traffic of our citizens with the Indians within the British territories." By treaty we have a right to go into *all their territories*, by land, or inland navigation, not merely to their posts. Pray then, Mr. CONSTITUTIONALIST, tell us how her settlers and trading houses will be an insurmountable barrier to this trade ?

The fur trade he says will not be worth a pepper-corn. Mr. JER-
PERSON says, "delaying to surrender us the posts, cuts us off from the fur trade, which before the war, had been always of *great importance as a branch of commerce*, and as a source of remittance for the payment of our debts to *Great-Britain*." Mr. MADISON stated the fur trade, withheld by the posts, worth 200,000 dollars per annum.—But the article which admits us into a fur trade, six times greater, to say the least, than that derived from a mere surrender of the posts, this advocate of the committee calls a mere pepper corn ! !

The 15th article of the treaty, is brought forward as an objection of immense weight against the treaty. Let us see how it stands. It is acknowledged, that British vessels now pay an higher duty in American ports, than American vessels pay in British ports. The parties stipulate to treat for the more exact equalization of duties, within two years after the present war, and agree that, in the interval the difference now subsisting, shall not be increased. This is in its nature a very temporary arrangement ; and, without an express stipulation, hardly any language can be more strong, that *Great Britain* will not raise her duties. She must equally raise them on all other nations, if she does on us ; and their duties have remained the same for many years.

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He asks the *FEDERALIST*, whether any such article exists in our other treaties. The answer is no. The reason is, because at making those treaties, no such difference subsisted, and there was no National Government authorized to impose duties. And further, let it be remarked, that this article is equally beneficial to the other powers, with whom we have stipulated not to impose higher duties, than those paid by the most favoured nations. The horrible event therefore, of offending our allies, need not be apprehended from this article.

The *CONSTITUTIONALIST* allows that all the assertions made by the *FEDERALIST*, respecting the right of nations having colonies, are true; and observes that there are but few, in this enlightened country, who are so ignorant as not to know, that unless we gain a right by treaty, *Great Britain* may prohibit our trading, or even entering the ports of her colonial possessions, without affording us any just cause of complaint. Every admission then of American vessels into her colonies must be considered a grant in our favour, of certain acknowledged rights.

It is unnecessary to remark that by the confession of this writer, he, and those whose cause he attempts to advocate, complain of the article ceding us certain rights in the *East Indies*, without any just cause of complaint. Having an absolute right, according to the *CONSTITUTIONALIST*, to deny us all trade, the permission of even a partial commerce must be considered an advantage gained by the treaty.

The *CONSTITUTIONALIST*, is requested to point to any thing that we give in exchange for this important trade to the *East Indies*. Here is the cession of a right which it is acknowledged *Great Britain* was under no obligation to grant, for which in return we have granted nothing; but they say the treaty wants a reciprocation of benefits from *Britain* to *America*.

The *FEDERALIST* express no admiration, nor even an opinion of the writings of Lord *SHEFFIELD*, he only quoted his words, he has frequently

frequently quoted the CONSTITUTIONALIST—By the same rule it may be concluded, he admires the writings under this signature—to draw such conclusions from such premises, is a species of logic yet unknown to the FEDERALIST—he forbears any further remarks—he writes merely with a view of pointing to the truth—to lead men to think and act for themselves.

The CONSTITUTIONALIST after having fully and completely allowed the rights of *Britain* to an exclusive trade with her colonies, and absolute want of a right in us to trade there, unless ceded by treaty, has the wisdom to contend that we ought not to receive any by stipulation; and that the treaty ought not to be ratified because of an article which gives us a valuable trade to her colonies.

But then he implies that a trade to the East Indies will not be substantially beneficial, because in his opinion, on comparison with its present advantages, it will not be equally so as now. This may be offered as a sample of logic—it is certainly neither truth nor common sense, to say that a thing cannot be substantially, or positively good, because it has been better.

Goods are usually sold cheaper in *Osford* than here—proof offered—they are *sometimes* imported from that country to this. India goods are *sometimes* imported from *England* into *America*; therefore they are cheaper there, than here. They are *sometimes* imported from *France* into *America*. According to such reasoning, it would be not difficult to prove that almost every article of commerce is cheaper in every part of the world, with which we trade, than in *America*. Do merchants never send goods from one port to another, but when they are dearer in the place sent to, than in the place sent from? This would be to suppose certain knowledge in a merchant of the different markets, in distant quarters of the world, not only of times past and present, but of future times. This would be a kind of prescience extremely valuable, but not yet attained. Do merchants never send goods to a port for a remittance, because they are cheaper in the place sent to than the place sent from? The CONSTITUTIONALIST says goods sent from *America* to the *East Indies*, are generally sold at a loss.

Suppose,

Suppose, for a moment, that the reason given supports his assertion, what has it to do with our trade to *Asia*? The true question by a merchant would be, where can I procure Asiatic goods on the cheapest and best terms? If in *Ostend*, rather than in *India*, it will be better to import such goods from *Ostend* than *India*. But until it can be shewn, that *India* goods can be imported on better terms from *Europe*, after the merchants have added their profits, than from *Asia*, it is probable the trade will continue, and be considered a beneficial one, although they are *sometimes* imported from *Ostend*.

This reason, though it came out modestly in the first part of the paragraph, in the latter part is made to prove that not only our trade to *India* will in future not be beneficial, but that we might obtain our *India* goods in *Ostend* cheaper than in *Asia*. What a pity, that this reasoning had not been brought to the public eye, before this late hour. The merchants of *Salem* and *Boston* had more than thirty vessels, chiefly ships, in the year 1793, amounting to more than five thousand tons, stupidly pursuing a voyage of fifteen months, at three times the expence that it would have cost them to have obtained the same profits, from *Ostend*, in five months, according to this writer—for the charge of five per cent. to procure bonds exists nowhere but in his imagination. There is not a word in the treaty rendering bonds necessary. The increase of twenty per cent. likewise, which he has conjured up, has no other foundation. The words of the treaty are “neither is this article to be construed to allow the citizens of the said States to settle or reside within the said territories, or to go into the interior parts thereof, without the permission of the British government established there, and if any transgression should be attempted against the regulations of the British government in this respect, the observance of the same shall and may be enforced against the citizens of America, in the same manner as against British subjects or others transgressing the same rule.” It cannot be denied by any who read this part of the article, that we have the same right after as before the ratification of the treaty; and a candid man would have thought, that putting our citizens on exactly the same footing as their own, would have rescued this part
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of it at least from censure ; especially when we consider the immense expence *Great-Britain* incurs for securing this trade to her own subjects. It is yet possible that the merchants will continue to rely more on their own calculations, than this sublime logic of the schools.

The CONSTITUTIONALIST agrees that *Great Britain* may prohibit us from all trade in her *East India* settlements, without just cause of complaint on our part—That she has stipulated to grant that which we could not claim of right, and which she has not stipulated to grant to any other nation, that having stipulated to grant us certain rights, does not impair her power to permit us the exercise of others—That our rights by permission will be as strong after, as before a ratification of the treaty—Yet he concludes that we are expressly prohibited by treaty from all trade not absolutely granted. This appears to be a palpable contradiction in the CONSTITUTIONALIST—He may, however, console himself by setting down this remark as a self evident preposition—He says, “ *America* had certainly a right to expect the same indulgencies would have been secured to her citizens in their intercourse to the British settlements in *India*, as are enjoyed by other nations.” (*Indulgencies*—Strange that this writer would use such a term as applying to us from *Britain*.) Let it be remarked in answer to this observation ; that other nations have no *indulgencies* secured to them. Further, *Great Britain* cannot prohibit us any indulgencies without prohibiting them, to other nations, according to the 15th article of the treaty, wherein it is said, “ Nor shall any prohibition be imposed on the exportation or importation of any articles to or from the territories of the two parties respectively, which shall not equally extend to all other nations.”

He says that “ British vessels by the treaty receive from us indulgencies, which are not allowed even to our allies.” This is not true—It cannot be supported by a word in the British treaty. And the treaty between us and *France*, expressly stipulates, that her subjects shall enjoy and receive every right and immunity that other nations do or *shall* enjoy.

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The CONSTITUTIONALIST supports the 8th reason of the town, by asking, whether in other treaties, there is any stipulation that we will export goods directly from *India to America*.—The answer is, there is not; and the reason is obvious. No other nation has permitted us by treaty, to go to *India*. There is no restriction of a trade there in our treaties, with other powers, because they do not allow us to trade there at all. This may be put down in the class of self evident propositions. The FEDERALIST rejoices that he has so many; wherever he finds any in the writings of his opponents, he will certainly pay them the tribute of acknowledgment.

He has mentioned some of the errors, and contradictions of the CONSTITUTIONALIST. There are others so self evident, that it would be an affront on the public, to suppose they can be read, without being instantly seen and felt.—Such are those on the clause by which *Great Britain* reserves a right to place her duties on a par with ours. This is an article which appeals so forcibly to our sense of justice for its fitness, that objections to it could not have been thought possible; and it cannot escape the notice of the most cursory observer, that all who attempt to support their objections, constantly assume premises, or draw conclusions so apparently false, as to convince their readers of the very reverse of what they intended.

The Federalist.—No. VII.

As published in the Centinel, Aug. 26, 1795.

MR. RUSSELL,

THE fourth number of the CONSTITUTIONALIST in support of the town's Committee, "that the reciprocity contained in the treaty, was merely nominal and delusive," offers the 3d, 5th, 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th, and 28th. The observations therefore made

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by the *FEDERALIST*, on the third, sixth, seventh, tenth and twenty-eighth articles, and which have remained uncontroverted by the *CONSTITUTIONALIST*, have satisfactorily proved, as he trusts, that they are highly beneficial to the United States. That the third opens to us a very lucrative trade, and liberalizes the colony system in our favour, more than *Great-Britain* has ever done to any other nation, and more than any other nation has ever done to the United States—which trade, by the acknowledgment of the *CONSTITUTIONALIST* she might have withheld without any just cause of complaint on our part. That the twenty-eight article secures to our citizens payment for provisions in cases whereby the existing law of nations such provisions would have been justly forfeited. It is not denied, that this is the natural and obvious construction of the article ; indeed words could not have made this plainer. What then can be the motives of writers who see and confess this to be the true sense of the terms ; and at the same time, assert that “ by this stipulation the United States surrender to *Great-Britain* the right never before restricted, to send certain articles to *France*, and even legalize her arbitrary seizure of them.” Do they think that a falsehood, because it is repeated, can be palmed on the public for truth ? Or do they think because they frequently tell of their love for the people, and their respect for an *enlightened public*, that they can thus insult their understanding, at the expence of truth and common sense ?

The ninth article is considered as extremely injurious—and the *Constitutionalist* has been pleased to remark that British subjects now hold vast tracts of land in the United States, in fee simple, and that American citizens now hold a few rods of land in the British dominions, in *fee tail* only. Whence this writer assumed this fact is not known—It is believed they exist only in his own imagination.

Among the artifices attempted to impose on the public, none have been more industriously used, than that of exciting an idea in the people, that their lands were to be holden by British subjects, and that this article would even deprive them of their own soil.—The most ridiculous falsehoods have been circulated in conversation,
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and in the public papers ; such as have shewn the utmost contempt for the understandings of our fellow-citizens, with a view of frightening weak and childish minds. The words of the article merely extend to lands *now holden*. It gives a British subject no right to buy real estate ; he cannot acquire lands by purchase under this article. It contains no other right than is in the treaty of peace ; with this addition, that they who now hold lands may convey them by devise or otherwise—Whereas by a rigid construction of the article in the treaty of peace, and the law respecting a right to hold lands by aliens, the best subjects could only hold lands during their lives, and if a descent was cast before a conveyance, the lands became projected to the government.

Until the last session of Congress, any alien being a free white person, who had resided two years in the United States, and one year in any particular state, and could give satisfactory proof to any court of record, that he was a person of good character, on taking an oath to support the Constitution of the United States, might become a citizen of the United States. This naturalized not only the alien, but also all his children under twenty-one years of age. Thus cheap and easy was the mode not only of acquiring a right to hold lands, but of most all the rights that could in any case appertain to a citizen.

The state of *Georgia* the last winter, sold many millions acres of land, and in their deeds of cession enacted, that if aliens purchased, they should hold the same, with all the privileges that could appertain to them if citizens. In the month of May last, the state of *Connecticut* proposed to sell a tract of land containing several millions of acres—and in their act, they expressly authorized their Committee to make sale of the land, and execute deeds thereof to any persons whether inhabitants of the United States, or others. It is said that in the state of *Pennsylvania*, any aliens may purchase and hold lands. In our treaty with *France*, Frenchmen are expressly authorized to hold lands. After such an expression of the sense of the people, on the subject of aliens holding lands, it cannot be presumed, that it is in the power of the most ranting madman to impose a belief

belief on the weakest, that a clause in the treaty which permits British subjects to retain and convey the lands they now hold, can be of the smallest evil.

The CONSTITUTIONALIST says there was no doubt in the Ministers who negotiated the treaty, as to the name of the river *St. Croix*, mentioned in the treaty of peace. The ministers themselves say there were doubts, and the Senate has acceded that there were doubts as to the name of the said river—whom will the public believe—their own officers, men of their own choosing, and speaking of their own apprehensions, or an anonymous writer, who pretends to know more of the sentiments of men than they know themselves.*

The 6th article is nominal and delusive, as this writer asserts, because it is not therein stipulated that commissioners shall be appointed to decide on debts due from British subjects to citizens of the United States, and lost by lawful impediments. If such a stipulation had been inserted, it might well have been termed nominal and delusive, for it is well known that there is not the smallest pretence for saying that any lawful impediment exists in *Great Britain*, since the treaty of peace, against the recovery of debts due to American citizens, by the operation whereof full and adequate compensation cannot now be obtained, in the ordinary course of judicial proceedings.

The quotation from Vattel, respecting the manner in which republics treat with monarchs, is fully agreed by the FEDERALIST—
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* Our own government has expressly stated, that there were doubts respecting the river *St. Croix*, intended by the Treaty of Peace—Mr. JEFFERSON, Secretary of State, in a letter to Mr. HAMMOND, British Minister, writes with the express view of bringing into discussion, the disputable points, and infractions of the treaty of A. D. 1783, says—
“A difference of opinion too having arisen as to the river intended by the Plenipotentiaries to be the boundary between us, and the dominions of *Great Britain*, and by them called the *St. Croix*, which name, it seems, is given to two different rivers, the ascertaining of this point, becomes a matter of present urgency; it has heretofore been the subject of applications from us to the government of *Great-Britain*.”

and the character of our Envoy, long since established in the grateful remembrance of his countrymen, would not suffer a doubt in the mind of any man, that this equality of republics would be fully vindicated by him. The treaty of commerce which is the subject of discussion has only added another proof of his ability, in vindicating the rights of republics. In the treaty of peace which he, with his compatriots so ably negotiated at *Paris*, he gave the fullest evidence of his skill and power in treating on equal terms with royal governments, though opposed by an insidious ally, and deceitful court. At that time the same men, who now attempt to destroy his well earned fame, would have prostrated the republic of *America* at the feet of a royal court, now acknowledged to be the most corrupt and perfidious in *Europe*. The firmness and abilities of Mr. ADAMS, the Vice President, and Mr. JAY, saved our country from the disgrace.

The suggestion that the FEDERALIST can be offended by the establishment of a doctrine like that mentioned by VATTTEL, excites no other emotions in his breast than those of contempt.

From the establishment of the federal constitution to the present moment, there has been a party in the United States, which, with unceasing and active malignancy has opposed the freest republic on earth—This party nevertheless boasts of its republicanism.

The CONSTITUTIONALIST in his fifth number, in vindication of the 11th reason of the town, and in opposition to the treaty, because it expressly stipulates, that in case of war, debts neither public or private shall be confiscated, seems to concede that credit has been of great efficacy in producing the prosperity of our country; and that in the last war, nothing was gained by a sequestration of debts—considers such truths as irrelevant to the subject. Surely if the people are satisfied, that credit has produced and is producing the most conspicuous advantages to this country, they will avoid every thing that tends to impair credit, for by lessening that, they will assuredly lessen their advantages.—If in the last war, they essayed this method of deriving benefit, and found it unsuccessful, they will call for complete proof of its supposed advantages, before they attempt
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it again. The question he makes, is—Has the United States a right by the law of nations, to confiscate such debts. He asserts that they have, and to prove the assertion, quotes Vattel ; but either overlooked a very material part of a paragraph, respecting private debts, or for some purpose, did not chuse to bring it into view. Immediately following his first quotations, and between that and his last quotation, are these words—“ But at present, in regard to the advantage and safety of commerce, all the sovereigns of *Europe*, have departed from this rigour ; and as this custom has been generally received, he who should act contrary to it, would injure the public faith, for strangers trusted his subjects only, from a firm persuasion, that the general custom would be observed.” Vattel is here speaking of debts, due from individuals of one nation to those of another ; and this is the writer quoted by the CONSTITUTIONALIST, to support the right of confiscating private debts. Which are we most to admire at, the weakness of the committee's advocate, or his audacity in thus attempting to impose on the public.

If we had occasion to remark on the meanness and falsity of conduct in excluding an intermediate passage that so completely destroyed a doctrine, the CONSTITUTIONALIST was labouring to support, we can feel nothing but contempt for a writer who insults the public understanding, by making the following quotation, viz. —“ A State at war, does not so much as touch the sums which it owes to the enemy. Every where, in case of a war, funds credited to the public, are exempt from confiscation and seizure.” And then asserts, that he has demonstrated that “ a right to sequester or confiscate monies in the public funds, does exist according to the law of nature and nations.”

The CONSTITUTIONALIST says, “ the situation of European nations, might have led them to this custom, but they have not recognized the same by any national compacts or treaties.” The word custom, as quoted from Vattel, referred to private debts as any one may see, who will turn to Vattel, 3d. book, chap. 5th, sect. 77.

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The CONSTITUTIONALIST, with his usual disposition to pervert the truth, applies it to the last quotation, from VATTTEL, which respects monies credited to the public. The CONSTITUTIONALIST, further asserts, in speaking of a right to confiscate debts generally, "the exercise of this right, has never yet been restricted by treaty. It has by common consent, rested entirely with the wisdom and humanity of nations."

These assertions of the CONSTITUTIONALIST, are absolutely untrue. There is scarcely a treaty made in the last century between any of the European nations, but what restricts the right to confiscate debts, and recognizes the doctrine, as laid down by VATTTEL, to have originated from custom. In the treaty between *Russia* and *Great Britain*, 12th article; it is stipulated, "that if the peace should come to be broke, the persons, ships, and commodities, shall not be detained, or confiscated; but they shall be allowed, at least, the space of one year, to sell, dispose, or carry off their effects;—and they shall farther be permitted, either at or before their departure, to consign the effects which they shall not as yet have disposed of, to such persons as they shall think proper, in order to dispose of them as they desire, and for their benefit; which debts, the debtors shall be obliged to pay in the same manner as if no such rupture had happened." In the treaty made between *Spain* and *Great Britain*, in the year 1667, is the following article; "if a war shall happen, the respective subjects and people shall have notice thereof, given them in time, viz.—six months to transport their merchandize and effects, without giving them in that time, any molestation or trouble, or retaining, or embarrassing their goods or persons." In the treaty between *Great Britain* and *Portugal*, concluded in 1642, the 18th article is as follows; "in case of difference, two years are allowed on both sides, to transport their merchandizes and goods, and in the mean time, there shall be no injury or prejudice, done to any person or goods, on either side." In the treaty between *Russia* and *Denmark*, 35th article: It is stipulated, "merchants shall have a year to depart, may sell, part with, or remove their effects, and those who owe them money, shall be obliged to pay their debts, equally

as if no rupture had happened." In the treaty made between *France* and *Great Britain*, in the year 1786, it is agreed in the 2d article, "that if at any time there should arise any misunderstandings, breach of friendship, or rupture between the crowns of their Majesties, the subjects of each of the two parties, residing in the dominions of the other, shall have the privilege of remaining and continuing their trade therein, without any manner of disturbance, so long as they behave peaceably, &c. &c. and in case their conduct should render them suspected, and the respective governments should be obliged to order them to remove, the term of twelve months shall be allowed them for that purpose, in order that they may remove with their effects and property, whether intrusted to individuals or to the state."

The 20th article of our treaty with *France*, the 3d of that with the *United Netherlands*, and the 23d with that with the King of *Prussia*, restrict the exercise of this right which the CONSTITUTIONALIST says, never has yet been restricted by treaty.—What confidence can be placed in a writer, who makes such false assertions, to induce the people, to adopt principles which are exploded by all the civilized world; and which even the barbarians of *Algiers* have abandoned, as too disgraceful for their character.

After a review of the assertions of the CONSTITUTIONALIST, in his 5th number, none can wonder at his attempts to ridicule morality, and his exclamations at what he is pleased to call a faint like zeal against injustice.

After all, the public cannot avoid the conclusion, that writers like the CONSTITUTIONALIST, who object to the treaty, on account of the article respecting the confiscation of debts, are guilty of the grossest affectation. For no one can suppose, that from the display they are pleased to make of their own principles, that any restriction by treaty would bind them to respect the rights it contracted for.

APPENDIX.

A P P E N D I X.

LETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
TO THE SELECTMEN OF BOSTON.

THE SELECTMEN inform their fellow-citizens, that agreeably to their directions, they forwarded the Resolutions, respecting the pending Treaty between Great-Britain and the United States, to THE PRESIDENT, and have received from him the following Answer :

EZEKIEL PRICE, THOMAS WALLEY, WILLIAM BOARDMAN, EBENEZER SEAYER, THOMAS CRAFTS, THOMAS EDWARDS, WILLIAM LITTLE, WILLIAM SCOLLAY and JESSE PUTNAM, Esq's. Selectmen of the town of Boston—

GENTLEMEN,

IN every act of my administration, I have sought the happiness of my fellow-citizens. My system for the attainment of this object has uniformly been, to overlook all personal, local and partial considerations ; to contemplate the *United States*, as one great whole ; to consider, that sudden impressions, when erroneous, would yield to candid reflection ; and to consult only the substantial and permanent interests of our country.

Nor have I departed from this line of conduct, on the occasion which has produced the Resolutions contained in your letter of the 13th inst.

Without a predilection to my own judgment, I have weighed with attention every argument which has at any time been brought into view. But the Constitution is the guide which I never can abandon. It has assigned to the President the power of making treaties, with the advice and consent of the Senate. It was doubtless supposed, that these two branches of government would combine, without passion, and with the best means of information, those facts and principles, upon which the success of our foreign relations will al-

ways depend : That they ought not to substitute for their own conviction, the opinion of others ; or to seek truth through any channel but that of a temperate and well informed investigation.

Under this persuasion, I have resolved on the manner of executing the duty now before me. To the high responsibility, attached to it, I freely submit ; and you, gentlemen, are at liberty to make these sentiments known, as the grounds of my procedure. While I feel the most lively gratitude for the many instances of approbation from my country ; I can no otherwise deserve it, than by obeying the dictates of my conscience. With due respect, I am, Gentlemen, your obedient,

G. WASHINGTON.

United States, 20th July, 1795,

AUGUST 15, 1795.

BOSTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

AT a large and respectable meeting of the *Boston Chamber of Commerce*, convened at the request of a number of the Members, and held at their hall, on Tuesday, *August 11th, 1795*, by adjournment, to consider of, and express their sentiments relative to the TREATY made by Mr. JAY, in behalf of the United States with Britain.

A motion was made to have the Treaty read, which was done : It was then moved to discuss and pass upon the Treaty article by article—this motion was objected to, because the subject had been so fully and so publicly discussed, and the members had had so much time to study the Treaty, and deliberately to form their opinion, that every one must be ready for the question—it was therefore dispensed with.

A motion was then made in the words following, viz ;

Resolved, As the opinion of the Chamber, that the recommendation of the Senate to the President of the United States, to ratify the Treaty, as amended by them, was wise and prudent, because

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it settles in a fair amicable manner, points of difference between the two nations, which must otherwise necessarily subject our country to a humiliating submission to British impositions and injuries, or induce a war, with all its horrors and distresses, to such redress; and because, when considered collectively, the tendency of the Treaty must be to promote and extend, rather than to injure and restrain our commerce.

This motion gave rise to a lengthy and free discussion of the subject at large, after which the question was put by the President when the same was adopted with one dissentient only.

Another motion was then made in the words following, viz.

Resolved therefore, that the Chamber cannot but lament and disapprove every attempt to excite an opposition to the Treaty in the minds of the people, and to detach their confidence from the government of the Union—because in a free government like ours, a firm reliance of the people in the wisdom and integrity of those authorities, which they have themselves constituted to manage their public concerns, and a chearful acquiescence in the decisions of rulers of their own appointment, are indispensable to secure the peace, the honor, and the happiness of the community.

This motion was also put by the President after a short discussion, and was adopted with one dissentient only.

Another motion was then made in the following words, viz :

Resolved, That the President of the Chamber be requested to forward an authenticated copy of the preceding resolutions to the President of the United States, and to publish the same in the public Newspapers.

This motion was put also and passed unanimously,

The question upon the whole was then put by the President after a few observations, and passed unanimously in the affirmative.

Copy, THOMAS RUSSELL, *President*.

A true copy from the records of the Boston Chamber of Commerce.

HENRY PRENTISS, *Secretary*.

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The following were published in the COLUMBIAN CENTINEL, Aug. 19.

MR. RUSSELL,

THE inclosed Dissent to the doings of the town, at their late Meeting, relative to the Treaty, was designed to collect, provisionally, the sentiments of the Merchants and Traders upon that subject. It was not at first intended for publication; but the repeated false assertions made in the *Chronicle*, "that the Merchants unanimously approved the town's objections to the Treaty," have made it necessary to publish the Dissent, to undeceive the public. If you have not room to insert all the names, you will at least include all the merchants and ship owners.

D I S S E N T.

WHEREAS the votes adopted at a late meeting of this town, relative to the Treaty of Amity, Navigation and Commerce, between the United States and his Britannic Majesty have been represented as expressing the unanimous sentiments of the merchants and other inhabitants upon that subject,

We the subscribers, unwilling to be implicated in the number of those, who approve of the doings of that meeting, and reserving to ourselves the right of expressing our opinion individually upon the merits or demerits of public measures, do hereby declare our disapprobation of and dissent from the votes of said meeting:

BOSTON, JULY 15, 1795.

Thomas Russell, William Mackay, Mungo Mackay, John C. Jones, Joseph Russell, Charles Miller, Samuel G. Perkins, David Sears, Theodore Lyman, William Wetmore, William Powell, Francis Butler, Edwards Edes, Alexander Hill, Stephen Codman, Henry Smith, Joseph Coolidge, Jonathan Mason, William Phillips, jun. Charles Sigourney, Charles Vaughan, Stephen Higginson, William Shattuck, Daniel Sargent, Thomas Amory, James Perkins, Daniel Sargent, jun. Samuel Blagge, Samuel Parkman, William Parsons, Lemuel Gardner, William Brown, Timothy Williams, Eben Parsons, Joseph May, B. C. Cutler,

Cutler, Gorham Parsons, Henry Newman, Samuel Elliot, Samuel
 Gardner, M. C. Groves, David Pearce, jun. Sylvanus Gray, Samuel
 Paine, Thomas Thompson, Benjamin Homer, John Gray, Joseph Head,
 Elisha Sigourney, William Bordman, jun. Simon Elliot, Joseph Foster,
 Perrin May, John May, Jonathan Merry, Nathan Goodale, Joseph
 Roby, Nathaniel Goodwin, Ephraim Elliot, Eliakim Morse, Isaac Da-
 vis, Henry Hill, Jeremiah Khaler, George Domet, Joseph Howard,
 Jedediah Parker, John T. Sargent, John Codman, David Greene,
 Allen Crocker, Joseph Laughton, Joseph Laughton, Joseph Pope,
 Henry Hunter, Samuel Wallis, James Cutler, Benjamin Bussey, John
 Amory, jun. P. Conner, Samuel Salisbury, Francis Amory, Minot
 Thayer, Samuel Miller Thayer, Joseph Ripley, Nathaniel Balch, Wil-
 liam Richardson, Joseph Carnes, John Winslow, Thomas Greenleaf,
 Lewis Carnes, Edward Cushing, Luke Baker, Samuel Sumner, Wil-
 liam Spooner, Thomas Brewer, Stephen Higginson, jun. Samuel Salis-
 bury, jun. Paul Revere, J. Bussey, Jeremiah Bumstead, jun. Joshua
 Davis, jun. Robert Davis, Josiah Knap, Edward Edes, jun. Joseph
 Hufsey, William Mackay, jun. William Stackpole, Charles Miller, jun.
 Lewis Hayt, William Stevenson, Isaac Rand, Benjamin Russell, E-
 benezzer Lewis, Samuel Smith, Isaac Davis, jun. William Dall, Josiah
 Quincey, James Clark, John Crease, William Cravath, Lemuel Hay-
 ward, Joseph Whipple, Edward Tuckerman, Nathaniel Curtis, Ezra
 Whitney, Ephraim May, Richard Faxon, Daniel Greenleaf, Ebenezer
 Frothingham, Moses May, Stephen Rawson, Samuel Davenport, Sa-
 muel Sprague, Moses W. Dana, Isaac Vose, A. Langford, Daniel
 Weld, Zeva Thayer, Aaron Warren, David Cobb, Samuel Bowen,
 John Williams, B. Butler, Thomas Dennie, John M'Lean, Charles
 Vose, Rufus Davenport, William Porter, John Boson, William Wood,
 John Osborne, L. Edes, Robert Robbins, Benjamin Fessenden, jun. E-
 lisha Ticknor, John Kennedy, Samuel Ridgway, Francis Greene, A-
 mos Lincoln, William Smith, Thomas Curtis, John Howe, Benjamin
 Sumner, jun. John Webb Checkley, Joseph Crocker, Moses Eayres, Wil-
 liam Ellisen, Daniel Bates, John Homans, Jonathan Huanerwell,
 James Ray, P. R. Dalton, Henry Roby, Redford Webster, Thomas
 Hearshey, Samuel Beales, Andrew Leach, Samuel Danforth.



